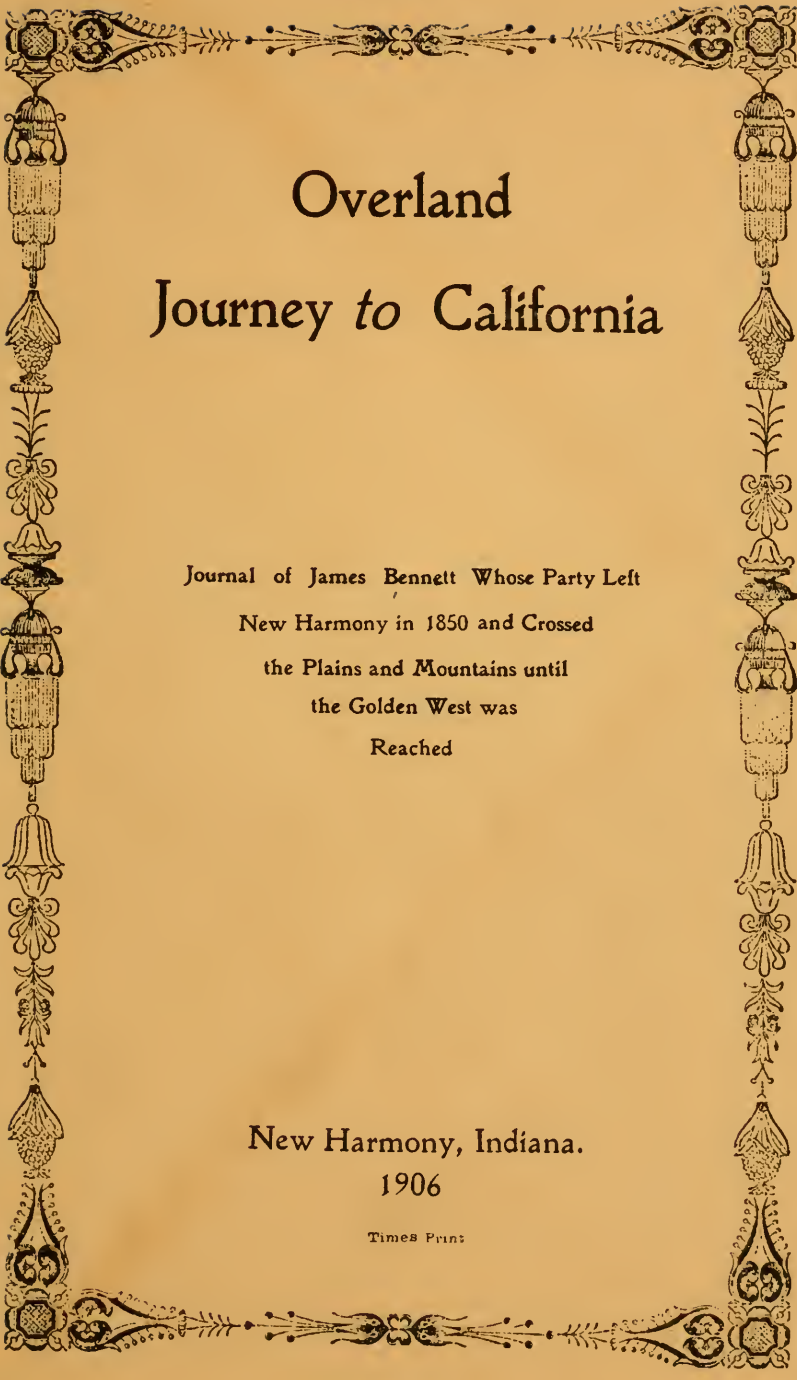


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Overland *Journey to California*

Journal of James Bennett Whose Party Left
New Harmony in 1850 and Crossed
the Plains and Mountains until
the Golden West was
Reached

New Harmony, Indiana.
1906

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55 West 42nd Street, New York

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A FOREWORD.

James Bennett, whose journal of the overland trip to California in 1850 the TIMES will publish, died December 14, 1869 in the fifty sixth year of his age. He was a member of Robert Owen's community and attended the School of Industry where he learned the art of printing. In 1846 he established in New Harmony the Western Atlas but subsequently changed it to the Gleaner. It was under his tutelage that the veteran editor, the late Charles Slater, learned the art of the printer and it is worthy of notice that the first type Mr. Slater set was for James Bennett and the last type that Mr. Bennett set was for Charles Slater. Being a journalist when that title meant its possessor possessed literary ability, we can look for an ably written and well told narrative. The journal is in the quaint style of penmanship taught three score years ago and is as legible as print. The outside pages are faded by water which shows that the journal has at sometime been exposed to the elements.

The party that left New Harmony on the first day of April, 1850 was composed of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Bolton, William Bolton, William Pritchard, Miles Edmonds, George Hamilton, John Mills, Mr. Oatzman, Mr. Sweesey, wife, daughter and son, Jonathan Jackson, John O'Neal, Mitch O'Neal, William Faulkner, Ira Lyons and James Bennett.

The journal says that the first day's task lay in crossing the Wabash river. On the Illinois bank the party rested and went into camp, their first night under the canopy of heaven, a canopy that was to be their only cover for the next six months; a half year full of strange experiences and fraught with more dangers than one can now find in the whole wide world.

The final leave taking before the argonauts began their journey westward, was said here and goodbyes were spoken with voices broken by grief and eyes blinded with tears. The plunge into the western wilderness was here to commence and many were the misgivings as old friend held old friend's hand and relative saw their kith and kin departing on a voyage beset with unknown terrors.

The scene that was witnessed on the banks of the placid Wabash that Spring night was full of color. Flaming camp fires illuminated a background composed of huge covered wagons and mild eyed oxen grazing passively on the forests of canes and rushes that once covered Fox Island.

The ruddy glow shone sparkling upon the bosom of the river and exposed the course for the canoes loaded with friends who were coming to speak a last farewell. The journal says the argonauts and visitors danced upon the grassy bank of the river and pass-

ed the last night in an attempt to drive away painful reflections.

Such a scene of this will always live in the memory of the one who witnessed it and no doubt there yet lives in New Harmony someone who took part in that last night. The placid river, the ruddy fires and the animated groups! Some eager with anticipation of what the journey would bring forth; the balance despondent over the part-

ing. The cane-brakes pressing closely around and perhaps affording covert for the stealthy panther and skulking wolf that then lurked in these parts and which looked with curiosity upon the scene; while over all the starry firmament shed its light, a light that was to pour its glamour over them until the land of the setting sun was reached.

—EDITOR TIMES.

Journal of James Bennett Whose Party Left New Harmony in 1850 and Crossed Plains and Mountains until the Golden West was Reached

Left New Harmony, Indiana April 1st 1850, having eight wagons to cross the Wabash. The day was so far advanced that we camped on the opposite shore still in view of the place of starting: our friends paid us a parting visit after sun set. the evening was spent in dancing under the shelter of a large sycamore, by firelight.

Tuesday, 2nd:—Breakfast at an early hour and prepared for a final leave of the folks at the river landing. Lyons and myself started on in advance to provide game for the party, saw a number of wild turkeys in the morning but were unfortunate in shooting at them. We proceeded on the road leading to Grayville until we reached French Creek bridge where we cooked our dinners and determined to wait till the wagons overtook us, fearful that some accident might have happened to them on crossing Fox River. We had succeeded in securing a sufficient supply of game and we filled up our time in dressing it for supper. The wagons came up in about an hour and a half. We reached Grayville that evening where we camped for the night, here the first guard was set. It commenced

raining and continued without intermission during the night.

Wednesday 3rd:—Wednesday showers all day. We reached Albion, Ill., at 2 o'clock in a severe hailstorm. Here another person, a Mr. Spencer, was added to our party. Encamped about two miles out on the Maysville road.

Thurs. 4th:—Weather fair during the day. I proceeded as usual in advance of the train on a hunting excursion; about two hours before sundown I got a shot at a deer and wounded it badly but the day was too far spent to follow it and consequently lost it. Pitched our tent for the night at a Mr. Shelby's.

Friday 5th:—Rain set in again this morning and continued at intervals throughout the day. Our route was through marshy prairies, the oxen frequently sinking to their middles in mud and water and being mostly unbroken cattle, the men were compelled to follow them in all their windings. The party arrived at Fox River completely drenched, had considerable difficulty in crossing the bridge, it was

in very bad state of repair so we were compelled to ford the stream. That night three of us were started in advance to make arrangements for feeding the cattle; we succeeded in finding some but the train was unable to reach the place, so we returned to the place of encamping, two miles back.

Saturday 6th:-Travelled 12 miles, had a good breakfast. Passed Maysville at 2 o'clock and continued on to a farmhouse. Camped a mile and a half further on in the middle of Twelve Mile Prairie. The weather was fair to-day and the road very good. In passing through the strips of woodland we killed plenty of squirrels for supper.

Sunday 7th:-Continuing our journey across Twelve Mile Prairie, saw a great number of prairie chickens but could not approach them within shooting distance. This morning I was persuaded by a number of our party to take out my shot-gun instead of my rifle and try for small game. I soon found I had made a mistake for I had not gone far until I was in fair rifle shot of two deer feeding at their leisure on the prairie. About 12 o'clock the wagons overtook me and I took the opportunity to change my gun. I succeeded about 4 o'clock in killing a fine deer, it was not far from the road and was soon carried to our encampment, on one of the horses. Weather cool and fair.

Monday 8th:-Last night the cattle were without feed. We started early and travelled three or four miles before breakfast. At 10 o'clock we did ample justice to the venison I had killed the day before having made way with both the hams at one meal. Our

route for the last three days has been principally through prairie country, with occasional intervening strips of woodland, from a quarter to a mile in width, in all of which we have managed to procure an abundant supply of small game. We encamped in one of these strips to-night where we found plenty of wood, water and feed for the cattle.

Tuesday 9th:-This morning we commenced crossing an arm of the Grand Prairie, 20 miles wide. In passing along the telegraph wire extending from Vincennes to St. Louis, we saw hundreds of snipes flying in flocks over the prairie and frequently striking the wire with such force as to kill them instantly; we picked up four that we saw killed in this manner, out of one flock. Their wings were strewn all along the road across this prairie, having been cut off as clean as it could be done with a knife. This was altogether a disagreeable day. The morning set in cold and cloudy and when we had traveled three or four miles out in the prairie it commenced snowing slightly, but changed to rain in the afternoon. We got through a little before sunset and encamped on a hillside near a farm house.

Wednesday 10th:-Last night the weather cleared up and when we commenced our journey this morning it was cold and frosty. Crossed the Okaw, at Carlisle, 9 o'clock, A. M. Mr. Mills, Coombe and myself went on ahead of the train to hunt in a strip of woodland, four miles from Carlisle, where we parted and took different directions in pursuit of game. We had not been long separated when I

heard the report of a rifle and having soon come up with Mr. Coombe, I found that he had killed a deer, which I helped him carry to the road, where we met the train and placed it in one of the wagons. Crossed the bridge over Shoal Creek, at 3 o'clock and encamped near the fork of the Alton and St Louis roads. We taking the road to Alton.

Thursday 11th:-We had another severe frost last night and found ice on a small pond a quarter of an inch thick. Commenced our journey again after breakfast and passed over a prairie four miles wide. Saw a number of prairie chickens, wild ducks and snipes but all too wild to be approached with gun shot. Passed through Looking Glass Prairie (8 miles wide where we crossed) and encamped on a beautiful clear creek, with plenty of wood near at hand, about a mile and a half in the timber; making in all 18 miles travel to-day. The day was clear and pleasant and by the time we reached our place of encampment we had killed plenty of rabbits, squirrels and other small game for supper.

Friday 12th:-This morning when we awoke we found the weather cold and cloudy with some indications of rain. Passed through Troy, four miles from our place of encampment at 10 o'clock. We had a slight shower in the morning, which soon passed over, however, and we commenced crossing another prairie, 5 miles wide. with a cold north west wind blowing in our faces. Stopped at a farm, in the middle of the prairie, at 12 o'clock, to feed our cattle and take a lunch. Passed through Edwardsville, 7 miles from Troy, at

3 o'clock. Called at the printing office in this place and was politely furnished with a late paper, by the proprietor. Encamped 5 miles from Edwardsville and nine south east of Alton.

Saturday 13th-Weather still cold, but clear. Directly after leaving our encampment this morning, we had to pass along the borders of a small prairie with a lake in the middle of it, for about two miles with a cold north-west wind blowing in our faces. In fact, I have seldom suffered more with cold than I did this morning, in this exposed situation. Reached Alton at 11 o'clock and wrote a letter home. Here we were persuaded from our original intention of crossing the Mississippi on account of a scarcity of feed for cattle through Missouri, and struck for Hannibal, 100 miles further north. Encamped on a small creek 8 miles north of Alton. .

Sunday 14th-For the last two days, owing to wind and cold weather, we have been entirely unsuccessful in hunting. Mills and I started early this morning, to endeavor if possible to procure game. The weather clouded up and we had a regular snow storm, which lasted all day, covering the ground to a depth of three inches. Arrived at Jerseyville at 3 o'clock, having travelled 12 miles. Stopped at a farm house half a mile from town, where we had the convenience of a barn to shelter us from the storm during the night. Killed 6 rabbits, but had no means of cooking them this evening.

Monday 15th-When we awoke this morning we found the snow had en-

tirely ceased and the day bid fair to be clear. We delayed starting however, for three or four hours. In the meantime, Hamilton, Lyon and myself were invited to give some music at the tavern in Jerseyville. We accepted, played a few tunes on our instruments and prepared to leave at 10 o'clock. The sun once more broke forth clear and beautiful, and the snow entirely disappeared in the course of two hours. Passed through a prairie for 5 miles to the town of Cain. One mile more brought us to heavy timbered woodland and after traveling three miles further encamped on the bank of a creek. When we had fairly settled down at our encampment in the evening, we were suddenly alarmed by the cry of fire. Mr. Mitchell's wagon cover had taken fire from a candle placed inside. It was soon extinguished with but little damage.

Tuesday 16th-Rain set in early in the morning and a council being held, we concluded to stop till the rain was over. Rain all day. Being in the neighborhood of a saw mill, we borrowed some plank and erected a shed to cook under. Towards night we became apprehensive that the creek, which had already commenced foaming at a furious rate, would inundate our camp ground. Our fears were groundless, however, for near midnight the rain ceased, the foaming waters began to subside and on

Wednesday 17th-We resumed our journey and passed through Carrolton 4 miles on our way 12 o'clock. This we found to be quite a flourishing little village, containing two printing offices, a large court house and a num-

ber of merchantile houses. There was also a brass band in this place, said to be very good. Encamped in a beautiful valley, surrounded with high bluffs, within five miles of the Illinois river, having traveled about 13 miles.

Thursday 18th-Commenced crossing a low marshy prairie. 5 miles wide, with the high cliffs bordering the northern bank of the Illinois, in full view in the distance. Saw a great number of wild geese and ducks but they were very shy, and would take flight whenever we attempted to approach them. Mr. Combe succeeded killing a goose. Arrived on the bank of the river about 11 o'clock and were detained three or four hours in crossing. After dinner we again commenced winding our way between high rocky bluffs for 3 or 4 miles, and had considerable difficulty in crossing the small creeks in our way. We crossed one more than a dozen times within the space of a mile and finally missed the road. By inquiry at a farm house, we learned that we could strike the main road again by going 7 miles out of our course on the trail that we were then following and we concluded to keep on. After ascending a very high bluff, which tested the strength of our teams to the utmost, we encamped for the night. The proceeds of todays hunt was 13 squirrels and a goose.

Friday 19th-A slight rain began to fall at 7 o'clock this morning. Mr. Mills killed a deer soon after starting and seeing it deposited in one of the wagons, we again started in advance of the train. After traveling about 7 miles in which we had considerable difficulty in tracing a blind

track we again reached the main road. Our road now which was very good, wound through the bluffs to every point of the compass, for 6 miles, until we reached Bay Creek, in the Mississippi bottoms where we encamped. Rain all day.

Saturday 20th-We continued our course along the foot of the bluffs which we crossed yesterday, in nearly a north-west course for 10 miles until we reached the town of Atlas, within 6 miles of Louisiana on the Mississippi, where we turned due west and encamped at a deserted log house on Cockle-burr creek 3 miles from Atlas, making 13 miles. In the evening quite a number of country people, both ladies and gentlemen, were attracted to the camp by our music and the evening was passed in dancing, in which our visitors joined us. Recitations were also given by Mr. Jackson and singing by a number of the company. Our visitors retired at 11 o'clock highly delighted. The weather today was cloudy but pleasant. The proceeds of our hunting was 18 squirrels and a rabbit, all of which we had cooked in good style for supper.

Sunday 21st-After traveling 3 miles this morning over a low marshy prairie where the wagon wheels would often sink to the hubs in mud and water, we reached the Mississippi at Louisiana, Mo., at 10 o'clock and crossed in a steam ferry-boat. The time occupied in crossing the train was 3 hours. After purchasing a few necessary articles for the journey we commenced moving again at 1 o'clock. The weather which was cloudy but quite pleasant during the morning had

now become oppressively hot; and what with bad roads, a probability of no feed for our jaded cattle and a thunder storm coming up in the distance, the prospect was gloomy indeed. We at last succeeded in purchasing some corn and straw and encamped on a clear creek, between two high bluffs 6 miles from Louisiana. The storm came upon us soon after our fires were kindled which delayed our cooking for some time and we retired to our tents and wagons after a late supper.

Monday 22nd-The rain continued at intervals in hard showers throughout last night but ceased entirely at 7 o'clock this morning when we set out on our journey again, through very bad roads and only made about twelve miles all day.

Tuesday 23rd-The weather cleared up again last night and we had a hard frost. Ice was formed on the little pools of water near our encampment. Mills and I started ahead of the wagons again today on a hunting excursion, but we had only gone about 3 miles when we came to a very bad place in the road for a quarter of a mile and we determined to seek a better way and stop to pilot the train through. We succeeded in tracing out a very good route and the wagons got through with but little difficulty. Passed through two small villages, Spencersburg and Madisonville and encamped 2 miles out in a prairie.

Wednesday 24th-Another severe frost last night. Our road this morning passed over a wet prairie for 8 miles which we got through in about

five hours and reached the timber again at 11 o'clock, where we stopped to rest our cattle. Traveled 8 or 9 miles after dinner over prairie and timber land and encamped for the night on a small creek within two miles of Salt river.

Thursday 25th-Forded Salt river at 8 o'clock a. m. and reached Paris at 4 p. m. After a fruitless search for feed for the cattle, we were compelled to stop, night having overtaken us 2½ miles from Paris. Notwithstanding the day was warm and sultry and the roads in a bad order, we traveled 16 or 17 miles. The evening was mild and pleasant and for the first time this season we heard the notes of the whip-poorwill.

Friday 26th-We have had but few really pleasant mornings since we left home. When not damp, rainy and otherwise disagreeable the weather has been cold to such a degree that it has often been with considerable reluctance that we have left our comfortable campfires to encounter another wearisome day's journey. This morning however, a soft southern breeze greeted us as we emerged into a high, beautiful prairie giving us new life and energy. That portion of Missouri which we have already passed over is a hilly and barren country; but within a day or two these have given place to rich and fertile farms and a denser population. On account of poor fare last night for our cattle, we stopped somewhat earlier than usual, having found hay cheap and plentiful and a good range for them in a woods pasture during the night. We traveled

about 14 miles today.

Saturday 27th-Left our encampment this morning at 7 o'clock. At 9 o'clock a part of our wagons were detained at a small town called Milton, to have some repairs done. They rejoined us again at 1 o'clock; we having stopped to wait for them. Passed through Huntsville at 4 o'clock and encamped a mile and a half out. Here we had intended to turn more south and cross the Missouri at Glasgow; but we were advised to the contrary and kept the main traveled route. We were unfortunate in the selection of our camping ground this evening. A rain storm came upon us just at dark, which lasted all night, and in the morning we found ourselves in a complete mud-hole.

Sunday 28th-We had considerable difficulty in cooking our breakfast in the rain and did not start until 10 o'clock. Traveled 4 miles in a hard rain and having found a high piece of ground on the bank of a creek with plenty of wood and good grazing for the cattle, we encamped. A large log fire was soon kindled from a dead walnut tree which we felled on the spot and as it sent up its crackling flames among the dry branches, diffusing its warmth around, cheerfulness soon assumed its place on many gloomy countenances, and the hardships of the morning were forgotten. The weather cleared up again the evening. The stars once more broke forth, bright and beautiful and we enjoyed our log fire with a degree of pleasure which those accustomed to similar comforts at home must be entire strangers to. A party of Germans, numbering 12 or

14 persons were encamped in about a hundred yards of us and seemed to enjoy themselves vastly in singing some of their native songs which were translated in part for us by Mr. Otzman.

Monday 29th-Our progress was slow this morning owing to muddy roads. After a drive of four miles we stopped at a farm to feed our cattle. One mile further on we came to a high rolling prairie where we found the road very good and concluding that the wagons would of course cross, it being only 7 miles, Mr. Mills, Lyon and myself went on in advance with our guns. When we had proceeded over 5 miles, we learned by a gentleman who overtook us on horseback, that our company had encamped for the night 4 miles back. We consequently had to retrace our steps and rejoined our companions at sun-set.

Tuesday 30th-The wind blew a perfect hurricane during a part of last night and this morning when I took my station on the watch at 3 o'clock, dark heavy clouds were floating past, nearly obscuring the light of a full moon and with the mutterings of distant thunder gave indications of an approaching storm. I called up all hands at 4 o'clock in order to have breakfast before the storm broke upon us, which it did in about two hours just as we were leaving our encampment. It cleared away, however, in a short time and gave place to a cold, north wind which lasted the remainder of the day, bringing overcoats and gloves in requisition. After traveling ten miles we passed through a miser-

able, dilapidated looking town, called Keytesville, situated in a strip of woods, six miles wide, between two prairies. Seven miles further on and we encamped at a place called Indian Grove, four miles out in a prairie.

Wednesday May 1st-I forgot to mention that we passed a place a day or two ago, where a person had kept a correct account of the number of California wagons which had passed on this road the present season, bound for St. Joseph's. According to his list the number had already reached 765. In fact, we can hardly travel a mile now, without coming upon the dying embers of some recent encampment. We were occupied some time this morning in collecting our cattle and made a late start. Although the road was very good, passing over high rolling ground, called Chariton Prairie, we only traveled 10 miles. Encamped early on the bank of a small stream called Salt Creek, which as its name indicates we found so strongly impregnated with salt that we were compelled to make use of water from an adjoining pond for cooking purposes.

Thursday 2nd-We started early this morning, stopping our course for the ferry on Grand River, eight miles distant, where we arrived at noon over one of the worst roads we have passed on the route. This river, as I was informed by the ferryman is 200 yards in width. We were detained 3 hours in crossing and encamped a quarter of a mile from the river in the edge of a prairie. Game of all kinds has been

very scarce since we crossed into Missouri. We saw several deer, however, yesterday and to-day and Mr. Combe killed a turkey. We have generally managed among us to keep up a pretty good supply of small game.

Friday 3rd-Rain set in early in the morning and lasted nearly all day. We had some difficulty in collecting our cattle and did not start till 9 o'clock. Traveled 14 miles entirely through prairie and encamped in a point of timber half a mile from the main road.

Saturday 4th-For the last three or four days we have found it utterly impossible to buy feed of any kind for the cattle and they have had to subsist entirely on grass, which is very short, the season having been backward. We traveled 13 miles today entirely through prairie and encamped on Shoal Creek, running through a strip of heavy timber, where we found an abundance of excellent grass.

Sunday 5th-We found the grass at this point so good that we concluded to remain here today and recruit our cattle. The day was spent by some hunting and fishing and by others washing clothes. The hunters and fishermen were entirely unsuccessful. Mr. Combe wounded a deer late in the evening, and in attempting to follow it got lost. Suspecting that such might be the case we fired a number of guns and directed by these and the campfires, he made his appearance among us again at 8 o'clock in the evening. The German company mentioned on the 28th ult., overtook us again today and encamped near us.

A number of California wagons stopped here during the day. A number of visitors were attracted to our camp in the evening by our music. Our German friends also gave us another specimen of their singing and a gentleman with one of the parties who arrived here today gave us a regular rake down on the violin, in real backwoods style.

Monday 6th-I did not mention in its proper place that we struck into what is called the Old Mormon trail at Keytesville. The road which has been mostly through prairie, has been very good ever since. We traveled 15 miles today and encamped half a mile from the main road. Our German friends stopped with us again and were very kind in furnishing us with some flour, ours having given out.

Tuesday 7th-We were visited by another rain storm shortly after we had retired to rest last night. Early this morning snow commenced falling in big flakes and lasted for 2 or 3 hours. The weather cleared up again at 11 o'clock, but we did not move from our encampment. After dinner a number of us struck off in different directions on a hunting excursion. We met with but little success except in the way of small game. One of our hunters discovered a water mill about a mile distant where we were enabled to purchase a small quantity of flour.

Wednesday 8th-When we set out on our journey this morning it was intended to make but a moderate days drive; but we found it impossible to select a place to graze our cattle till after sun-set; having traveled 17 or 18

miles over a bad road. In passing along the side of a high rocky bluff, the spring wagon containing the lady passengers upset in a mud-hole and we had considerable difficulty in placing it in an upright position again. Fortunately for the ladies no bones were broken and but little damage was done. Passed through Kingston at 4 p. m.

Thursday 9th-Information having reached us last night by a person just returned from St. Joseph's of considerable suffering in that place in consequence of a scarcity of feed for cattle we determined to leave the main road in search of grass and stop for a week. We accordingly shaped our course due north four miles and encamped on Shoal Creek, where we found the grazing tolerably good. In passing through a heavily timbered piece of low ground, covered by a thick undergrowth of buck-eye now in full leaf, in pursuit of game I came upon the track of a large bear; the first indications we have had of the presence of this animal on the road.

Friday 10th-Much dissatisfaction has existed in the company for several days past in consequence of delay and some other minor matters and this morning it was so strongly manifested that Mr. Sweasy, the leader of the expedition called the men together and stated the impropriety of moving on under the present aspect of affairs at St. Josephs and informed the company that it was his intention to proceed immediately on horseback to headquarters, where he could judge for himself of the expediency of any further delay. Good feeling soon pre-

vailed again after this declaration on the part of Mr. Sweasy and he set off in the course of an hour, in company with Mr. Pullyblank for St. Josephs after appointing Mr Lyon to superintend the affairs of the company in his absence. During the 11th, 12th, and 13th, the time was spent in hunting, fishing, repairing wagons, etc. On the 14th about noon, Messrs. Sweasy and Pullyblank returned with quite favorable news and stating also their determination to resume the journey again on the following day.

Wednesday 15th-We were called up for an early start this morning but our cattle had wandered far out in the prairie and much time was occupied in collecting them; consequently we did not leave till between eight and nine o'clock. We made about 14 miles however, mostly through an uneven prairie country with limestone appearing on the surface in many places. We came near losing a number of our lady passengers today. They had accompanied Mr. Pullybank, who started half an hour in advance of us with his teams, about a mile, when they concluded to stay and wait for Mr. Sweasy's wagons to come up. But he had taken a different road, having heard that it was shorter and better. The ladies were consequently left far behind both, as we did not learn of their absence until we overtook Mr. Pullyblank at noon. One of our men returned with horses and they came up with us again at 2 o'clock. We encamped at a spring this evening on the borders of a beautiful prairie. Weather clear and oppressively warm all day.

Thursday 16th-After passing over a prairie six miles wide this morning, we reached the town of Plattsburg, where we laid in our supply of flour for the Plains. The day was exceedingly warm and we turned our cattle out to graze and rest on the bank of a small brook, four miles from Plattsburgh. It was so late before we got through cooking our dinner, that we encamped here for the night with but a meagre supply of wood and bad water.

Friday 17th-Three miles on our way this morning one of our wagons broke down in fording a branch of the Platte river and we stopped at a wagon maker's shop, one mile from the place where the accident occurred to have it repaired. Our carpenters were engaged all day in making a new wheel and we remained here for the night. Our young folks were again favored with an empty log cabin, where they amused themselves in dancing during the evening.

Saturday 18th-We crossed the Platte river today at 1 o'clock, nine miles from our encampment. It was a solid rock bottom, the water only coming up to the knees of our cattle. The Platte is about one hundred yards wide at this place. After travelling 7 miles further, mostly over rough rocky bluffs, with a stunted growth of timber, we encamped two miles out in a beautiful rolling prairie, four miles from St. Josephs.

Sunday 19th-When the cattle were collected this morning, it was discovered that three of our best oxen were missing. All hands immediately start-

ed in search of them, but the entire day was consumed before they were found and we did not leave our encampment.

Monday 20th-Reached St. Joseph's at 9 o'clock this morning, where we were detained most of the day in purchasing provisions. Mr. Bolton and lady joined us here, having arrived three weeks before us by water. Three gentlemen likewise applied to us for a passage to California and were accepted. Their names were Moore, Wade, and Fever. Crossed the Missouri at 4 p. m. in a steam ferry-boat and after driving five miles through a heavy growth of cottonwood, during which night overtook us, we encamped at the foot of a high range of bluffs, on the bank of a small creek.

Tuesday 21st-We had the misfortune to lose 7 of our cows yesterday in passing through St. Josephs, and five or six of our party were detained all night on the opposite side of the river in search of them. After waiting very impatiently at our encampment, all day, they came up with us again at 5 o'clock p. m. They had succeeded in finding five and concluded to leave the other two behind.

Wednesday 22nd-Another delay was occasioned this morning by discovering that 3 barrels of crackers had been left in St Josephs at the store where they were purchased. After some little consultation it was decided that Mr. Sweasy and Lyon should return with the two horses and pack them on in sacks, and that the wagons should start forward immediately. Half a mile from our encampment we ascend-

ed a high prairie bluff, overlooking an immense extent of country, through which we could trace our road winding its course among the bluffs far as the eye could reach. An Indian on a fine black pony passed us here at full speed, addressing us in his native tongue, the purport of which we could not of course understand. Crossed Mosquito Creek, 13 miles at 2 o'clock and encamped in a strip of woodland 3 miles further on. Mr. Sweasy and Lyon did not overtake us till dark. They were very much fatigued.

Thursday 23rd-We arrived at Indiana Agency to-day at 11 o'clock. Several white men were settled here with excellent farms under a high state of cultivation. The wheat, which was about knee deep, was the finest looking crop of the kind I have ever seen. I noticed several squaws very neatly dressed in the costume of the whites, sitting at work in the houses, while quite a number of Indian men, in their native dresses, were busily engaged in trading at a store. Here commences the so-called great "American Plains." The country which had been very much broken during the last day's travel, with limestone often appearing on the surface, gradually gave place to smooth and gently undulating hills. When we had left the Agency two or three miles an old Indian met us from a cross road and presented a paper, written in good English, asking for a small sum of money as a tribute for passing through their territory. He received a number of dimes from different members of the company and soon left us, apparently very well satisfied. We encamped without wood, except a little dry hazel

and sumach, but had the benefit of a very fine spring of pure, cool water.

Friday 24th-After a drive of 12 miles to-day, we turned our cattle out to water at a creek a quarter of a mile from the main road. Four miles further on we arrived at Bear Creek, a dirty sluggish stream, winding through a strip of timber. Here we were met by Mr. Pullyblank. He left us yesterday in search of Mr. Dexter, who had dropped us a note by a return emigrant, desiring to join our train when we came up with him. He was nine miles ahead of us and driving slow, to give us an opportunity to overtake him. According to Mr. Pullyblank's directions we took in wood and water here for the night, and after driving three miles further encamped. We met a number of emigrants returning to-day, discouraged by sickness and death in their ranks. Four persons out of a company of six had died, and the remaining two who were sick had hired a couple of young men from another train to drive them back to St. Joseph.

Saturday 25th-Was a hard day's drive, having travelled 25 miles in order to overtake Mr. Dexter's company. We were rather rash in passing a watering place early in the evening and came near suffering for our folly. We met Mr. Corbin, however, a little after sunset, who relieved us from our dilemma. He was from Mr. Dexter's company and was on the lookout for us. They were encamped on Nemehaw Creek, two miles distant, where they had been waiting for us to come up. We arrived at the place some time after dark, fatigued with our hard day's

travel.

Sunday 26th-When we arrived at our encampment last night it was too dark to trace distinctly the surrounding landscape. The scene this morning was beautiful almost beyond description. Our wagons were enclosed on three sides by high prairie bluffs, clothed in a rich carpet of deep green, while on the other side a clear stream 20 or 30 yards in width, went bounding over limestone rocks till it was lost to view, a hundred yards distant, among a luxuriant growth of trees, just bursting into full foliage. Standing on the bank of the creek we could see a variety of fish, some of them ten or twelve pounds in weight sporting in its water. At twelve o'clock to-day in crossing a creek one of our wagon wheels slipped its tire and we were delayed till 4 o'clock in repairing it. Mr. Dexter's party drove on and encamped three or four miles ahead and we did not overtake them till nearly dark.

Monday 27th-We found but an indifferent supply of water to-day and weather being warm and sultry, we traveled only about 16 miles when we turned off the road to a strip of timber a mile distant and encamped. As we were now in the neighborhood of the Pawnees, it was deemed advisable to see that our firearms were in order and the greater part of the evening was devoted to cleaning guns, moulding balls, etc.

Tuesday 28th-Arrived at Big Blue river at 10 o'clock a. m. This stream favorable at all ordinary times, we

now found very much swollen. About fifty wagons were already collected on the bank and several companies were occupied in crossing on rudely constructed rafts. We found the chance of crossing here today hopeless, so drove on to a point a mile above and commenced constructing a couple of canoes, thinking them safer than by the usual mode. There was a train of five wagons at this crossing, who had nearly completed a raft and proposed to us to join them in ferrying on it, which we agreed to do and abandoned the building of but one canoe. A part of our men finished the canoe during the afternoon and the others assisted in crossing the five wagons which were safely landed on the opposite bank during the evening. We were encamped in the prairie, half a mile from the river and did not commence crossing our train to-day. A number of the Pawnees visited the different encampments and appeared quite friendly. One party came in bearing a white flag.

Wednesday 29th-When we launched our canoe this morning we found it capable of carrying a thousand pounds with perfect safety, although the stream was very rapid and apparently dangerous for so small a craft. We commenced placing our provisions and clothing in the canoe, while the empty wagons were crossed on the raft by means of ropes attached to each end of it and to the bank. In this manner several of our wagons and their contents were safely deposited on the opposite shore. By some mismanagement in placing a wagon on the raft, we came very near losing it altogether. In pushing off from shore

It rolled off back and the hind wheels were completely buried in the water. It was rescued from this position however, by considerable labor, in which several of our men were up to their necks in water. Geo. Hamilton, Ira Lyon and Wm. Pritchard, were the principal sufferers by this unfortunate accident. They had trusted their boxes in this wagon and they were completely immersed in the water. Mine were also in the wagon but fortunately for me on top, and suffered no injury whatever. Two pair of new boots and a pair of shoes belonging to me sank to the bottom of the river, but were grabbed up by Mr. Bolton. All the wagons fourteen in number, were finally crossed over and after moving up the stream half a mile to the prairie we encamped.

Thursday 30th-Made about 20 miles today and encamped a mile from the road.

Friday 31st-Stopped at a creek today at noon to repair a wagon. The tire had to be taken off the wheels and re-set, which occupied about two hours. We made about our usual days drive and encamped at sunset. A herd of buffalo, the first seen on our route, was observed by a number of our party, ascending a bluff in the distance. Several antelope were also seen, but could not be approached within gun shot.

Saturday June 1st-Several of our party set out early this morning, on horseback to hunt buffalo. They returned at ten o'clock, entirely unsuccessful. We met a company of dragoons today on their march from Ft.

Kearney to Fort Leavenworth, having a number of baggage wagons in charge. We encamped on the bank of a creek this evening 2 miles from the main road.

Sunday 2nd-Last night we had one of the hardest rain storms I ever witnessed. Our large tent was lifted from the ground by the wind and everything contained in it completely drenched with water. In fact everything we had was wet more or less; for the rain came with such force as to beat through the wagon covers. The storm lasted throughout the night. The weather cleared up before sun-rise and the air became cool and refreshing. We were in sight of timber nearly all day yesterday, following the course of the creek on which we encamped. We crossed it this morning, after following it up the bank a mile. At three o'clock p. m. we reached the Republican Fork of Blue river and after traveling along its course for four or five miles encamped. This creek is fifteen or twenty yards wide with timber growing along its banks and at the time we reached it very much swollen with recent rains.

Monday 3rd-Continued our journey up the creek for 4 or 5 miles, when we struck off into the plains again over a high bluff, the creek here making a sweeping bend entirely out of the direct course. After traveling over a country level as a floor for six miles the road bore out towards the creek again and finally descended to its valley up which we travelled the remainder of the day, with the timber close on our left hand. Since we left St. Josephs our guns have been al-

most useless, for game of every description has been driven entirely from the road by the immense emigration this season. This part of the country has been represented as abounding in a variety of game. A few antelope and buffalo have been seen by some of our party within the last few days, but for my part I have not seen either yet.

Tuesday 4th Rain set in at 10 o'clock last night and continued at intervals during the greater part of the day. We continued our course along the Republican Fork. At three o'clock we ascended the bluffs and struck off into the plains after taking a supply of wood and water for the night at the creek. When we had reached an elevation where we could take a view of the surrounding country we counted over a hundred emigrant wagons in sight.

Wednesday 5th-The rain continued with but little intermission till 12 o'clock to-day. The road was consequently bad and our progress slow. We encamped 7 or 8 miles from the Platte with the bluffs in sight. We procured mushrooms growing along the road today, the largest I have ever seen; some of them measuring 3 inches in diameter and an inch and a half thick. The largest were too old for cooking but Mr. Beal soon gathered a handkerchief full of smaller dimensions and said to be excellent.

Thursday 6th-Started early and reached Ft. Kearney having traveled something like 25 miles. Before reaching the foot our course was along the foot of the bluffs in the valley

of the Platte for 8 or ten mile. This part of the road is through low marshy ground and at the time we passed quite muddy with the recent rain. The Fort stands about a mile from the river and consists of three large frame buildings, a number of out houses built of turf and used as stables, a store, postoffice and a powder magazine. A number of tents were pitched in the vicinity for the accommodation of the soldiers. The mail leaves here once in two weeks for the States.

Friday 7th-This morning one of our wagons having been found unfit for the trip was drove to the Fort and exchanged for a stronger and heavier one. The rest of the train proceeded on the road and did not stop till dinner time. The new wagon came up at 2 o'clock. At 4 o'clock we stopped to take in wood, which was procured by wading the river to an island. The water was only knee deep but very rapid and muddy. Encamped a mile from the river near the bluffs.

Saturday 8th-We met two wagons this morning returing to the States on account of sickness. We also met a wagon containing a man who had been accidently shot. His friends were returning with him to the Fort to have his wounds dressed. Another train of three wagons also passed us on their way back in the afternoon, having had four deaths in the company. The prevailing complaint is diarrhoea. Crossed Plum creek at 5 o'clock and encamped a mile beyond on the Platte. One of Mr. Wilsey's party killed an antelope today which was divided among the company and cooked for supper. We found it pretty much the

same as the common deer.

Sunday 9th-The weather yesterday was clear but very sultry. Last night however, the wind shifted round to the north and this morning we found overcoats quite comfortable to travel in. We passed a number of emigrants returning on account of sickness and saw many new made graves at different points along the road. In one place we counted three and at another five. The disease is said to be cholera.

Monday 10th-Drove about 14 miles today and passed 10 new graves; two of them ladies; one aged 57, the other 37. Weather clear, cool and pleasant. After taking in wood and water at the river in the evening we struck out about 2 miles to the bluffs and encamped at 5 o'clock. Soon after our caralfe was formed, I was engaged with Mr. Mills in removing some wood from one of the wagons, when one of his pistols was discharged by some mismanagement; an accident which came near being attended with very serious consequences. On examination we found that the ball had passed through one corner of our powder-box, containing ten cannisters, or about 50 lbs. The muzzle of the pistol could not have been more than three or four inches from the box. Had the ball passed through one of cannisters at so short a distance, there is no calculating the amount of damage that might have been done.

Tuesday 11th-We still continued our journey up the Platte, passing during the day 15 or 16 graves. I have noticed that the bluffs on the left have gradually become higher and more

rugged as we have proceeded on our journey, till finally at about 95 miles from Fort Kearney, according to a guide book, they appear to have reached their highest point. Here we turned off to the river, two miles distant on our right and encamped. A number of our party ascended the highest point of the bluff and described the view as very beautiful.

Wednesday 12-This morning soon after striking the main road again, we passed a party of horseman paying the last funeral rites to one of their departed friends. The sad ceremony was soon over, and they galloped on to overtake their train ahead of us. During the forenoon, a dead buffalo was discovered at the road side, killed by a party of hunters in advance of us. A large portion of flesh had been cut off and the remainder was taken by our own company. Passed 16 graves today. Full two-thirds of the deaths that have occurred are Missourians. Why it is so, it is impossible to tell but such is the fact. A quarrel occurred in camp this morning between Mr. Mills and Mr. Sweasy. It originated in a foolish dispute concerning the distance between our encampment and the Forks of the Platte: each having gained information from different sources. The quarrel on the whole had a very good effect; for Mr. Sweasy has of late become overbearing and insolent to the company in general, and towards Mr. Mills in particular, and the small share of sympathy he gained from this little outbreak, served in a measure, to show him his true position with regard to the company. His manner throughout the day underwent

a complete change; seldom giving an order but leaving it to the discretion of the company. We arrived at the lower crossing, a few miles above the fork, at 5 o'clock this evening, but finding the ford too deep we encamped a few miles above, having concluded to cross at the upper ford 45 miles further on the South Fork.

Thursday 13th-This morning we found the clouds threatening rain. It did not come on however, til we had proceeded a mile on our way and was only a slight shower, which soon cleared up and gave place to bright sunshine. For the last day or two we have had to resort entirely to buffaloe chips for fuel. It burns very freely when dry and answers very well for all common purposes of cooking. A number of wolves were killed by the emigrants today. One passed me within sixty yards with a horseman in full chase. It was killed by Mr. Dexter, with a revolver. The graves of 14 persons were passed today, all of whom died of the prevailing complaint cholera. We encamped on the bank of the river. After supper Mr. Hamilton favored us with some music on his violin and the young folks danced cotillions in the caralle till a late hour.

Friday 14th-We had a heavy shower of rain, attended with thunder and lightning last night. There seems to be no power of abatement in the number of deaths among the emigrants. We passed the usual number of graves today, as well as several trains encamped on account of sickness. Met two mule teams carrying the mail from Salt Lake to the States. Encamped

5 miles from the ford.

Saturday 15th-In consequence of a rise in the river and a scarcity of grass near the ford, it was deemed advisable to send a man ahead to examine the crossing previous to starting this morning. Mr. Sweasy took this task upon himself. He returned within the course of two hours and having reported the ford impassible, it was agreed to remain here today and look for another crossing. A place was discovered three miles below, where by raising our wagon beds a foot on the bolsters we would be enabled to cross. The wagons were consequently adjusted for the trip during the afternoon and everything put in readiness for an early start in the morning. Twelve or fourteen wagons passed us returning to the states. Two were from Salt Lake on their way from California. The proprietor of the California wagons had met his brother-in-law, a few miles above and persuaded his whole train, some eight or ten wagons in number to return.

Sunday 16th-After retracing our steps three miles down the river at an early hour we commenced crossing. The river is over a mile wide at this point with a current outrunning the Missouri or the Mississippi and in its course over an uneven bottom, boiling and eddying until it is completely mixed with sand thus raised by the motion of the water. Into this flood, fearful and dangerous to look at, our wagons commenced plunging one after another the first dive completely immersing the axletrees and nearly sweeping the

drivers off their feet. They all passed safely over in the course of two hours but not without many apprehensions that they would be overturned by the immense weight of the current pressing on them at times when the wheels sunk into the inequalities of the bottom. On reaching the opposite shore, the drivers found the legs of their pantaloons literally cut to pieces by the sand and force of the water. Encamped three miles above our starting place. There is but very little variety in the scenery along the Platte. The valley is probably six miles wide on an average, bounded by high bluffs with but a scant covering of grass in many places, while at others they are entirely destitute of vegetation. The river itself is so cut up with islands that it is difficult to judge the distance across. Where a clear view could be had, it appeared to be over a mile wide. Although it was said to be at high water when we passed, yet it was seldom deep enough to swim a horse. The road runs nearly in a straight line, approaching alternately the bluffs and river and thus cutting off their windings. There is no timber on the main land, except at two or three points and our fuel was procured by wading to the island. In ascending the Platte to the forks, the bluffs gradually approach nearer the river and become higher and more rugged in their character. There is a ford five miles up the South fork and another 45 miles further on. We kept on the south side to the latter. The bluffs again recede from the river to an average distance of two miles after passing the lower ford and there is no preceptable difference, either in the character or size, between the

south branch and the main river. Grass is abundant and afforded fine grazing for our cattle. Water is generally procured by digging two or three feet, but it is often found to be unpleasant in flavor and is no doubt the main cause of sickness among the emigrants. The river water is probably the best for general use. The whole valley is cut up with buffalo trails leading from the bluffs to the river and their bones may be seen scattered in every direction. These animals, however, have almost entirely disappeared from the road in consequence of the immense emigration within the last two years.

Monday 17th—Our course today was nearly due north through the bluffs for 7 or 8 miles when we intersected the road from the upper ford. We reached the bluffs leading to Ash Hollow at 3 p. m. and after winding our way along a ridge with high limestone cliffs on either hand for two or three miles, we descended by a precipitous road for two hundred feet, into the Hollow. This place takes its name from the timber which it produces. Having secured an excellent supply of fire-wood here for the night, we drove a mile and encamped on the north fork of the Platte, after traveling in all 23 miles.

Tuesday 18th—A cold north wind had set in during last night and as we proceeded on our journey up the river, we had to resort to our winter clothing again to keep warm. The grass having been found short at our stopping place last night, we halted at 9 o'clock to graze our cattle near an encamp-

ment of Sioux Indians. A number of our party paid them a visit, but they did not seem desirous to hold communication with white folks and retired to their lodges. A few, however, stood their ground and seemed to hold the prying curiosity of their white visitors in utter contempt. They were about 20 in number, accompanied by 2 white men, who answered many questions respecting the tribe, etc. During the afternoon we came to an Indian tomb on the road side. It consisted of four or five poles, about 15 feet in length, stood up on end in a conical form, with ends secured at top by a leather thong; while mid-way a rude shelf was constructed of sticks and raw-hide, on which the body was placed, wrapped in a buffalo robe, painted with Indian devices. A rough board was suspended at the side, stating in English that the deceased had liver complaint and requesting that the body should not be disturbed. This afternoon was warm and sultry and altogether it has been one of the hardest and most disagreeable day's travel we have had. This part of the road runs along the foot of the bluffs, with the river close on the right hand and is intersected by deep chasms cut into by the rain washing down from the bluffs. The dust was intolerable and our teams were enveloped in a complete cloud of it nearly all day. A dark cloud appeared in the northwest, soon after we had encamped and we had barely got rid of our supper things when a storm, such as is only known on the plains, burst upon us with all its fury. Past experience had learned us to secure our tents well to the ground; and this time only one out of six blew over.

Wednesday 19th-The face of the country today is pretty much the same as that of yesterday; except that the valley is oftener wider and the grazing consequently better. There appears to be but little abatement in sickness. There was a considerable decrease in the number of graves on the first day's travel from Ash Hollow, but today we have passed nineteen. A difficulty arose among our leaders which came near dividing the train. Mr. Dexter, in consideration of his experience on the road, had been unanimously chosen to select encampments and stopping places. He was about a mile in advance with his wagons, at 11 o'clock when the rest of the party thinking they had drove far enough, halted to dinner. This gave offense to Mr. Dexter and he ordered a division of the herd of cattle, with the intention of traveling by himself. The difficulty was amicably arranged in the evening.

Thursday 20th-At three o'clock today we arrived at a creek opposite Solitary Tower. Messrs. Beal and Bolton visited it and as their description corresponds with that of Mr. Palmer, I give the following extract: "This singular natural object is a stupendous pile of sand and clay, so cemented as to resemble stone, but which crumbles away at the slightest touch. I conceive it is about 7 miles distant from the mouth of the creek; though it appears to be not more than three. The height of this tower is somewhere between six hundred and eight hundred feet from the level of the river. Viewed from the road, the beholder might easily imagine he was

gazing upon some ancient structure of the old world. A nearer approach dispels the illusion and it looks as it is, rough and unseemly. It can be ascended, at its north side, by clambering up the rock; holes having been cut in its face for that purpose. The second or main bench can be ascended with greater ease at an opening on the south side, where the water has washed out a crevice large enough to admit the body; so that by pushing against the sides of the crevice one can force himself upward fifteen or twenty feet, which places the adventurer on the slope of the second bench. Passing around the eastern point of the tower, the ascent may be continued up the north face. A stream of water runs along the north-eastern side, some twenty rods distant from the tower; and deep ravines are cut out by the washing of the water from the tower to the creek. Nearby stands another pile of materials, similar to that composing the tower, but neither so large nor so high. The bluffs in the vicinity appear to be of the same material. Between this tower and the river stretches out a rolling plain." We encamped a little beyond Solitary Tower and in full view of Chimney Rock.

Friday 21st-At twelve o'clock today we halted opposite Chimney Rock. "This," says Mr. Palmer, "is a sharp pointed rock of much the same material as the **Solitary Tower**, standing at the base of the bluff, and four or five from the road. It is visible at a distance of 30 miles and has the unpoetical appearance of a haystack with a pole running far above its top." This, as Solitary Tower is inscribed with hundreds of names. We en-

camped about ten miles from Chimney Rock, but still in sight of it.

June, Saturday 22nd-Today at 9 o'clock a. m. we arrived at Scott's Bluffs. The road leaves the river at this point by a circuitous route for 30 miles. We met an Indian trader here with a two horse wagon, who pointed out to us an excellent spring, seven or eight miles ahead. He also stated that there was a regularly established trading post three miles to our left, where we could see a herd of cattle grazing. Having reached the spring in the afternoon, we found here an encampment of near a hundred Sioux Indians. The village contained 13 lodges and a row of rudely constructed huts. Removed from these, perhaps three hundred yards, were two Frenchmen with their Indian wife and children. They were having a dog feast. Near their camp fire was the head of a large mastiff; a bleeding evidence of the fact. We procured a good supply of wood and clear and cool water here and encamped three miles further in the bluffs.

Sunday 23rd-We descended from the bluffs to the valley of the Platte again at 9 o'clock this morning. Crossed Horse Creek near its junction with the river at 10 o'clock and encamped ten miles above.

Monday 24th-After a drive of 18 miles today, we encamped early in the evening within 5 miles of Fort Laramie. Mr. Bolton had walked on in advance of the wagons in the afternoon and was not aware for some time that we had stopped. He had to retrace his steps for a considerable dis-

tance and it was with some difficulty that he found us late in the evening, we having turned off the road. It rained during the night.

Tuesday 25th-Five miles travel this morning over the spurs of the bluffs, brought us to Laramie river, a branch of the Platte, within a mile of the Fort. A number of teams were already crossing. The water was very rapid and we observed that the wagons sunk midway up the beds. After raising all our damageable goods to the tops of the beds, our train all passed safely over in the course of two hours. A small boat made of a wagon bed was plying backward and forward just above the ford by a rope stretched across the stream and a number of us took advantage of this accommodation to have our chests carried over. Four of us paid a dollar and a half for one trip, my passage included. The stream is about 40 yards wide. We stopped at the Fort two hours to write and mail letters, make a few purchases, etc. and after a drive of a mile over the spurs of the bluffs we again reached the Platte. We encamped four miles up the river, near a grove of dead ash timber, where we procured a supply of most excellent fuel. The grove stands in a marsh and has no doubt been destroyed by fire taking hold of the rank undergrowth of shrubs and grass during some uncommonly dry season.

Wednesday 26th-Mr. Bolton and Mr. Axton stopped back at the fort yesterday to have their wagons repaired. As they did not reach here this morning at the usual time of start-

ing, it was agreed to remain here during the day. We accordingly took advantage of the delay to bake a stock of bread, air our provisions, clothing, etc. Our two wagons came up with us again at 2 p. m. A train of forty wagons, Thompson's, stopped about a mile above us, late in the evening. They drove upwards of 200 head of loose cattle. Their herd of cattle in all numbered over 500. It rained very hard during the night and as usual the wind came with such force as to nearly blow our wagons over.

Thursday 27th-Ten miles travel this morning over a rough road, winding among high cedar bluffs, brought us to the Warm Spring. This spring bursts out at the foot of a bluff, into a dry sandy gulley, a quarter of a mile to the right of the road, affording an abundant supply of water for stock, but it is too warm to be palatable. We encamped on Bitter Cottonwood creek, having traveled 18 miles.

Friday 28th-Our route yesterday after leaving the Warm Spring, was through the Black Hills. This morning we ascended Bitter Cottonwood Creek for four or five miles, crossing it many times. The creek I presume takes its name from the peculiar species of tree growing upon its banks. It resembles in all respects the common cottonwood of the Western states, except in its leaf. The leaf is long and pointed and not unlike the white ash, but smaller. Fourteen miles brought us to Horse Shoe creek, where we filled our casks with clear, cool water and encamped a mile beyond.

Saturday 29th--After ascending a bluff 200 feet high by a very crooked, rough and steep road, we found the traveling very good for 2 or 3 miles; but during the rest of the day it was by far the worst we have had on the route. Ascending and descending immense hills, obstructed by cobblestones, to such an extent as to endanger our wagons at almost every hundred yards. A drive of twelve miles brought us to LeBonte or Big Timber creek, where we had contemplated stopping for the night. Having found the grass short and parched up, we endeavored to reach a small creek, five miles further on. Here too we were disappointed and again kept on in hopes of reaching another creek, three miles distant. The drive was too much for our cattle. Several of them fell down with fatigue and had to be unyoked. By delay in turning the broken down cattle out of the teams, our wagons got separated. A part went on to the creek; but five, among which was the one I occupied, were compelled to stop. We were without water and there was none to be procured except by retracing our steps a mile and a half to the creek. I explored the country in the vicinity of our encampment in search of water. It was in vain, however, and I returned to camp, determined to make the best of our dry fare, and retire to rest. I found my companions in better spirits than I anticipated. Mr. Wilsey had laid in a scant supply of water and furnished the party with sufficient for tea. A bright fire was blazing up when I returned and supper nearly ready. During the evening it was agreed that one of our party should return to the creek on horse-

back in the morning and procure a supply of water in our India rubber sacks. After crossing Big Timber creek, the scenery for four or five miles is of the most singular character. Our road here was through a narrow valley, shut in by immense bluffs on either hand. Those on our left covered with pine and cedar with a scant growth of herbage, while those on our right were composed of a deep red sandstone, with scarcely a spear of grass appearing. The whole valley was of a deep red color, producing nothing but wild sage and had the appearance of an immense brick-yard.

Sunday 30th--We rejoined our friends this morning at 9 o'clock after traveling four miles. Their fare had been no better than our own. They were encamped a mile from a spring and the grazing short and dry. A quarrel had occurred between Mr. Spencer and the ladies. They had from some cause neglected to make coffee for breakfast and hence the difficulty. Miss Combe, whose services have been invaluable on the journey, had remained with our party. The road today has been very good. We traveled only ten miles, however, and encamped on LePrele river; a clear stream, 30 feet wide and of an average depth of two feet. A cold wind was blowing all day with such force at times as to nearly lift us off our feet.

Monday July 1st--At supper yesterday evening we found that Mr. Beal was absent and an inquiry discovered that he had not been seen in camp. He had been seen to start on ahead of the train at the last watering place; but further than that, we could not

learn what had become of him. Two miles on our journey this morning, we heard that he had stopped all night with another train, within a mile of us and had started on again this morning. Mr. Otzman and myself had a regular quarrel with Mr. Sweasy on the road, which arose from our having purchased some sugar and hard bread which he refused to take into the wagon, under the frivolous pretense of too much weight. We encamped at 1 o'clock on LeFourche Boise Creek and after dinner Mr. Otzman and Mills went in search of Mr. Beal. A number of companies clubbed together this afternoon and had a shooting match for a beef. Our company won three quarters.

Tuesday 2nd-After a drive of four miles today over a tolerable good road, we again struck the Platte. Two miles further on we left the main road to find an encampment on Deer Creek. Having stopped to dinner, we learned from one of our hunters that Messrs. Fotzman, Mills and Beal were at the regular crossing, waiting for us to come up. A person was dispatched to direct them to our encampment. They came up with us in the evening. Heretofore our arrangements have been very unsatisfactory with regard to the duties of the members of the company. After supper a meeting was called and this matter satisfactorily adjusted by assigning to each person a certain share of the work,

Wednesday 3rd-Considerable delay was occasioned this morning in consequence of some of our cattle having strayed. While we were thus detained

the cry was raised that a buffalo was coming down a bluff near a quarter of a mile off. Several of us started in pursuit. Two horsemen from another train also gave it chase and after pursuing it near two miles to the base of the mountains, succeeded in killing it. It was a large bull and had received four shots before it fell. Mr. Jackson was in at the death and received a share of the meat. Grass is very scarce and dry in this region. We traveled only nine miles today and encamped three miles from the road on Crooked Muddy creek, where the feed was tolerable good.

Thursday 4th-Word was given out last night to start early in order to reach a clear creek ten miles ahead, where it was intended to celebrate the anniversary of American Independence. We reached the creek at 12 o'clock, but owing to a scarcity of grass were compelled to move four miles up the creek. When we had accomplished this distance, over a rough road, it was too late to make preparations for our frolic and it was consequently postponed till to-morrow.

Friday 5th-Our wagons had to undergo some repairs here and it was agreed that while a part of the company were engaged in the work the rest should proceed to the mountains, three miles distant on a hunting excursion. I was among the hunters. We found the mountain covered with a dense growth of pine, cedar and fur trees. The ascent was tedious and in many places difficult. The pine leaves afforded a slippery insecure foothold and we were often compelled to take

off our boots. After pulling ourselves up by bushes, clambering among rocks, which would often give way under our feet and go rolling with a crash many hundred feet below us, we at length reached the summit at 11 o'clock, having been five hours from camp. Here we found a level plain of perhaps a hundred acres in extent, enclosed on three sides by an abrupt barrier of rocks, 20 or 30 feet in height. The plain was covered with luxuriant grass, strawberries, just in bloom, pine, cedar and fur trees scattered at intervals over the whole space and everything wore the appearance of spring. Snow and ice were found in situations protected from the rays of the sun. A number of mountain sheep were seen on the cliffs above and below, but none in gun-shot. After a fruitless search for game and after taking a view of the surrounding country, we descended by an easier route and reached our camp in two hours. Here we found everything had been prepared by the ladies for our 4th of July dinner. A fat calf had been killed by Mr. Pullyblank the night before. At three o'clock we partook of a dinner seldom excelled in the States on such an occasion.

Saturday 6th-Early this morning we struck through the bluffs for the Platte with the intention of crossing at 12 o'clock but found the river too deep to ford. There is a regular ferry established two miles above this point, but the price of ferriage (5 dollars a wagon) was a consideration with our leaders; and much against the will of the company, they preferred buying a couple of old wagons beds already in use by another train and

crossing in this manner, by taking our wagons in pieces. After much labor, we landed ten safely on the opposite shore during the afternoon.

Sunday July 7th-In crossing one of our spring wagons, an accident occurred, which came near resulting in serious consequences. Owing to its peculiar construction, we had to leave the springs and axle-trees attached to the body, making it so heavy as to overload the boat. When about half way across the water rolled over the bow to such a degree as to sink it and it was carried down the stream near two miles. Three men were managing the boat. Mr. O'Neal and Mr. Faulkner held fast to the rope attached to the banks and reached shore; while Mr. Sweasy was carried down with the boat. Fortunately our other boat had just discharged its load and immediately went to the relief of Mr. Sweasy and succeeded in bringing him safely ashore. After towing the boats up again, our ferrying was completed at 11 o'clock without any more accidents.

Monday 8th-The cattle had been placed on an island, a mile above our encampment on the first day of our arrival here. This afternoon it was discovered that 22 were missing. After a long and tiresome search by the whole party, eleven were brought in near sun-set by Mr. Combe. They were found in the neighborhood of our last encampment. Mr. Williams returned with another after dark, having heard of the others from an emigrant on a similar errand. It was too late however to go in search of them.

Tuesday 9th-Early this morning a

part of the company started out to look for the cattle and returned with them at noon. A most distressing casualty occurred this afternoon which has thrown a gloom over our whole company. In bringing our cattle off the island, Wm. Faulkner was thrown from his horse and drowned. Owing to the rapidity of the current, our efforts to save him were unavailing. An unsuccessful search was made for his body; and we left the scene of this melancholy accident at 4 o'clock p. m. and encamped on the river three miles above.

Wednesday 10th—Another unsuccessful search was made this morning for the body of Wm. Faulkner. The road leaves the Platte altogether at this point and passes over the Red Buttes. This part of the country is rough, barren and sterile; producing nothing but wild sage. After traveling ten miles, we encamped in a valley with a small brook running through it. but the water was not very good. By driving the cattle a mile from our encampment we found the grazing very good.

Thursday 11th—At the crossing of the Platte, I was seized with the prevailing sickness and today, as well as a part of yesterday, I have been unable to walk. The country is still broken, barren and sandy; scarcely producing even wild sage. In traveling a distance of ten miles, we counted 32 dead oxen on the road side; supposed to have been poisoned by drinking at an alkali pond which we passed yesterday.

Friday 12th—After ten miles travel

this day over a heavy, sandy and barren road, we reached Sweet Water river, where we took dinner. Here we found the grass very short and as our cattle were nearly exhausted by hard work and scant feed, we drove off the road five miles to the right, where we found excellent grass and a good spring.

Saturday 13th—A number of our wagon tires having become loose, it was agreed to remain here today and repair them. While a part of the company were engaged in repairing the wagons, others were out in pursuit of game. Although quite weak from my sickness, I was among the latter. I did not go far, however, and returned in two hours with a couple of mountain grouse and a large hare. Others came in during the day with a variety of small game, sufficient to supply the company with one good meal. I did not mention yesterday that two of our oxen were left six miles back unable to travel. Mr. Sweasy and son returned for them early this morning. One of them was dead; the other could not be found.

Sunday 14th—A man galloped into our encampment while we were preparing for a start, requesting a charge of powder to shoot a rabbit. He was under a great state of excitement and we refused it. We soon learned that he had shot a person in a quarrel, wounding him slightly in the hip at another encampment, two or three hundred yards distant. Five miles due south of this we struck the main road again at Independence on the Sweet Water. This is a solid mass of gray granite, 70 or 80 feet high, a

quarter of a mile in length and may be ascended at the north-west point. Thousands of names are inscribed on the south side; some in different colored paints and others carved in the rock. A party of us had preceded the wagons half an hour to view the natural curiosity. We amused ourselves in clambering to the top of it and in reading the inscriptions till the wagons came up. Five miles beyond this we arrived at Devil's Gate, where the Sweet Water bursts through a spur of the mountain; the rocks rising on each side to the height of four or five hundred feet. The road runs through another gap, a considerable distance to the south. We encamped on the river; having traveled 12 or 13 miles.

Monday 15th-Ten horses were missing this morning. Eight belonging to Mr. Dexter and two to Mr. Sweasy. The men were sent out in all directions to hunt them. They were brought in at 9 o'clock, having wandered to the mountains, five miles distant. Notwithstanding our late start we drove thirteen miles over a heavy, sandy road and encamped on the river near the Rattlesnake Mountains, along which we have been traveling for the last two days. These mountains are composed of a species of granite, almost entirely destitute of vegetation.

Tuesday July 16th-As we ascended an elevation in the road, a quarter of a mile from our last night's encampment, we caught the first view of the snow-capped Wind River Mountains, far in the distance. We encamped on the river again at 12 o'clock still near the Rattlesnake Mountains; having

traveled 13 miles. For the last five days grass has been very scarce. Abandoned wagons, dead horses, cattle and mules, have marked the track over which we pursued our wearisome journey and the prospect has been gloomy enough. Today, however, we have had less of heavy sandy roads and have been fortunate enough to procure good grazing for our cattle. Since we arrived on the Sweet Water the nights have been cool, with slight frosts. A clear moonlight night followed a warm and sultry day and as we clustered around our camp-fires, the fatigues, hardships and perplexities of the journey were in a measure forgotten in recounting the dangers and difficulties of the past and building up bright hopes of happy days yet to come.

Wednesday 17th-Directly after leaving our encampment we followed the course of the river through a canon in the mountain; crossing it three times within a mile. This is called the Narrows. The distance through is probably a mile. Granite cliffs rise on each side in many places several hundred feet high with an occasional cedar growing from the crevices while the pass is often so contracted as to leave barely sufficient room for a wagon, between the base of the rocks and the river. There is some timber in the valley with an undergrowth of wild currant and gooseberry bushes. Here also may be seen hundreds of names inscribed on the rocks of those who have gone before us. Seven or eight miles from this, the road again crosses and leaves the river for 16 miles. We drove the whole distance through (27½ miles) in order to procure

grass and water and did not encamp till 10 o'clock at night.

Thursday 18th-Our cattle being greatly fatigued with yesterday's long drive, we only made 7 miles today. After fording the river near our encampment, we passed over a range of high, barren bluffs, struck the river again and following its course for a mile, encamped. Wild sage is our only fuel. This is emphatically a wild sage country; producing little else. The whole atmosphere is scented with it; some of it growing to an enormous size. At one place we found stalks 5 or 6 feet high and six inches in diameter. Several trains were encamped here and in the evening a number of our neighbors came to chat with us and listen to our music.

Friday 19th-Two miles up Sweet Water, brought us to a bluff up which we traveled for three miles over the roughest road we have had on the route. At times we had to pass over solid limestone for a considerable distance; endangering our wagons at almost every stop by jumping from the ledges. Two miles from the summit we stopped at cool spring to dinner. From the spring we traveled about ten miles over a very good road, but crooked and rolling and encamped on a branch of the Sweet Water. We found the grass short and had to drive the cattle two miles to better feed. A guard of four men was sent out to watch them during the night; among whom I was placed on the last watch. A tent and blankets were carried to the spot, but the evening was clear and pleasant and we used the tent for a bed and slept in the open

air. Wolves were howling around us all night and we were considerably annoyed by mosquitoes.

Saturday 20th-We encamped on Sweet Water again today, after traveling seven or eight miles.

Sunday 21st-A difference of opinion with regard to this day's travel, arose this morning, which led to a division of the company. There being but little or no grass for twenty-eight miles to come, Messrs. Dexter, Wilsey and Pullyblank, were for starting at 3 o'clock p. m. and traveling all night; while Mr. Sweasy preferred making it in two days. They could not agree and separated as above stated. Two miles up Sweet Water and we crossed it bidding farewell to the last stream flowing homeward. Seven miles from this we passed the Twin Mounds and took dinner a quarter of a mile beyond. Just as we were starting from this place, we were shocked to hear of the sudden death of Mrs. Bolton. She had been complaining for a day or two, but nothing serious was apprehended till eleven o'clock today when a physician was consulted, a few minutes previous to starting. She requested us to travel on, but her life terminated as soon as the wagons commenced moving. Her disease was said to be congestion of the lungs. She was carried on to Pacific Springs where it was contemplated the funeral should take place.

Monday 22nd-The sad funeral ceremonies of Mrs. Bolton being over, the wagons commenced moving at 9 o'clock this morning. We had a 20 miles journey before us today over a

barren, sandy road to Little Sandy, where we arrived at ten o'clock at night. We were disappointed in finding grass here and our cattle were carellled and watched till morning. Messrs. Beal, Oztman and Hinkley, who had become very much dissatisfied with Mr. Sweazy, purchased three yoke of cattle of another company today, joined Mr. Bolton in his wagon, took their proportion of provisions and left the train. They drove on to join Mr. Dexter's train, which had passed us in the morning.

Tuesday 23rd-We were up at 3 o'clock this morning and drove six miles to Big Sandy, where we found excellent grass by driving down the stream 4 miles and encamped. We are now six miles on the Soublett's Cut-off and as there is no water and but little grass for 40 miles to come, we intend driving it through without stopping.

Wednesday 24th-In exploring the creek some of our men discovered better grass a mile below and our cattle were driven to it. All hands started down the creek early this morning to cut grass for a feed through the Cut-off. I took my gun and had the good luck to kill four sage hens and a large hare, with which I returned to camp in time to have them cooked for dinner. Gooseberries were growing in great quantities along the banks of the creek, of which the ladies made us some excellent pies. These, with the game, made us one of the best meals we have had on the road. The cattle were brought in at 1 o'clock p. m., and we started at 5 driving all night. It was a beautiful moonlight night and

for the first 25 miles, one of the best natural roads I have ever seen, being firm and level as a floor.

July, Thursday 25th-Stopped to breakfast at 4 o'clock in a deep ravine, having made about thirty miles. From this point the road runs over a succession of high hills, many of them somewhat tiresome and difficult to pass till it reached Green river. We arrived at Green river at 4 o'clock p. m., having been 25 hours out. The cattle were forded over and drove four miles above to graze. The wagons were left to be ferried over in the morning. There is a regularly established ferry here. The charge for crossing a wagon is five dollars. At one time this morning we were nearly encircled by snow covered mountains.

Friday 26th-After ferrying the wagons this morning I went with a party of four others to relieve the cattle watch, who had been out all night. We carried our guns and fishing tackle with us. Two fine trout were taken from a clear creek running near our camp, which we had for supper. Mr. Dexter, who had passed us at Big Sandy, was also encamped at the ferry and the cattle of the two trains were herded together as usual.

Saturday 27th-We commenced driving the cattle to camp at sunrise, but did not get in till ten o'clock, owing to the difficulty of taking them through a dense grove of willows for a quarter of a mile, where we frequently lost sight of them altogether. The road from this place continues down the river two miles and then strikes into

the mountains again to the right. After winding about in every direction for a distance, variously stated at from six to nine miles in which we often caught sight of the river from the mountain peaks, we reached a clear and rapid creek up which we traveled two miles and encamped. In passing out to the mountains from Green river we met a party of Snake Indians, twenty in number, all on horseback who were very friendly, shaking hands with us and offering to harter us deer skins and moccasins.

Sunday 28th-Left our encampment early and traveled about twenty miles. Fifteen miles on the road we came upon an encampment of Shoshone or Snake Indians, at least 500 in number, all well armed and mounted. As they caught sight of us descending a high bluff, they galloped towards us in great numbers and nearly surrounded our wagons. They were very friendly shaking hands as usual and offering to "swop" dressed deer skins and moccasins for a variety of goods in our possession. The articles most in demand were powder, lead, shot, percussion caps, tobacco, sugar, clothing and what is most singular, umbrellas. This latter article appears to be worn more for ornament than use; for we noticed one fellow yesterday place his under his blanket at the commencement of a slight shower. Bargains could be readily had for anything they wanted. A quarter of a pound of powder was sold for a dollar in money. Two boxes of percussion caps would procure a large dressed deer skin etc. I purchased a good pair of moccasins for 5 cents worth of tobacco and was offered two pair more

for an old vest I had on, that ought to have been thrown away a month ago; but the evening was cold and I was too far behind my wagon to part with it. The favorite mode of wearing a vest appears to be with the buttons behind. They are reaping a rich harvest (at least they think so) in picking up the old cast-off garments of the emigrants. We encamped at a spring, in a small valley with a high bluff on our right. This bluff is an immense oyster bed, the whole of the summit being covered with fossils of this description of a large size; some of them measuring nine inches in length.

Monday 29th-Soon after leaving our encampment we commenced crossing and ascending a succession of bluffs for a distance of five miles, till we reached the base of a mountain, full 500 feet in height and most difficult to pass, being very steep, and the road so constructed with cobble-stones and broken fragments of rock, as to endanger our wagons continually. Up this rough passage our cattle had to toil for half an hour, till we arrived at the summit, when we immediately commenced descending again and after a drive of two and a half miles, arrived at Ham's Fork of Green river, a bold clear stream, 30 yards wide, where we encamped with an abundant supply of grass. We met another party of Shoshone Indians here, with whom we soon struck up a brisk trade for deer skins and moccasins. They were accompanied by a Canadian half breed, who spoke good English and gave us some valuable information concerning the road for 200 miles ahead of us. He was a cripple by a fall from a horse and drawn on a kind

of sledge driven by a squaw. He belonged to a trading post two miles below on the river.

Tuesday 30th-This morning the ground was covered with a white frost and ice formed in our buckets a quarter of an inch thick. After passing up the side of a steep mountain, by a road even worse than that of yesterday, our ascent was gradual for nine miles, when it became more abrupt, till we finally reached the summit, 12 miles from our last encampment. From the top of this mountain, we had a most delightful view of the surrounding country. For many acres in extent, the ground was covered with a rich carpet of wild flowers of every color and many of them common in the Western States. A dense grove of fir and aspen trees, through which our road had just passed, bounded our view on the east, while all around and nearly on a level with where we stood, snow banks were piled in the mountain gorges. Bear river, its banks fringed with willows, could be traced in the distance, while on all sides, far as the eye could penetrate, barren and rugged mountain peaks formed the horizon. From this point the road descends again for three miles, by a circuitous route, till it reaches a small creek, where we encamped,

Wednesday 31st-This morning we passed over the last ridge separating us from Bear River. The descent of this ridge is probably the worst on this chain of mountains; the road being crooked, steep and much obstructed by jutting rocks. The distance from the summit to the base is probably a mile, but there is only a hun-

dred yards of very bad road; the rest is comparatively good. From this to Bear river valley, the road is excellent. Having stuck to the valley at 2 o'clock, we traveled down the course of the five miles and encamped on Smith's Fork; a clear stream 30 or 40 yards wide, coming in from the east.

Thursday August 1st-Ten miles on our road today we came to Bear river for the first time. Here we took dinner and turned our cattle out to graze. At this point it is a dirty sluggish stream, unlike any other on the route. It makes a sudden angle here from north to west, leaving the road, which passes up the valley due north 6 miles to Thomas Fork. Before accomplishing this six miles, however, the road makes a gradual turn to the left to avoid a marsh and takes a west course for some distance to the Fork. We encamped a little below the ford, where we had fine sport in fishing. The cattle were crossed to a small island, where they had an abundance of feed for the night.

Friday 2nd-The road crosses the creek here, runs down it for a mile and then bears off in a west course, for 7 miles through a chain of hills, separating Thomas Fork and Bear River. From the top of one of these hills we had a fine view of Bear Lake on our left. A high range of snow-capped mountains borders the valley in the same direction. In this 7 miles there are three very bad hills to pass; one ascending and two descending. The one descending to Bear river valley is probably the worst this side of the Sierra Nevada. Four miles from this we struck Big Timber on Bear

river. Here we took dinner. In driving our cattle to water one yoke swam across. Mr. Moore, a Canadian by birth, in attempting to swim after them came near losing his life. He was carried down the stream by the force of the current for a considerable distance to a steep bank on the same side from whence he started, where by great exertion he managed to hold on till Mr. Mills ran to his assistance. He was taken from the water nearly exhausted. Like a true hero, however, he started in again at a more favorable point and succeeded this time in bringing the cattle back. From this point we traveled down the river six miles to Spring Branch and encamped.

Saturday 3rd-We traveled about 20 miles today. Eleven miles on our road we took dinner at a cool spring rising from the centre of a marsh to the left of the road. After this the road leaves the valley and passes over a chain of bluffs to Soda Springs. After traveling seven miles, we turned from the road 2 miles, struck the river again and encamped. Here we found a great abundance of wild currants. There were three varieties; red, yellow and black, all differing materially from the common garden currant.

Sunday 4th-Today at 1 o'clock p. m., we arrived at Soda Springs, the greatest natural curiosity on the route, or perhaps in the world. I shall not attempt a description of them here, but refer the reader to Fremont and others who have visited this wonderful place. After two hours spent in examining the Springs, we moved on

down Bear river in a south west course for 5 miles to the forks of the road; the Fort Hall road turning to the right and Myer's or Headguth's Cut-off to the left. We took the Cut-off. Our road from the springs has been through a volcanic region; and soon after turning from the river into the Cut-off and for ten miles on, the whole valley is marked by yawning chasms and burnt and blackened masses of rock and cinders. A large crater was seen three miles distant to the right. Two of our party visited this place and stated it to be 300 yards in diameter and 60 feet deep. We made a mistake in not filling our water kegs at the river, for with all our exertions in examining the ravines and by sending a man ahead on a mule to a chain of mountains over which our road was to pass, we were compelled to stop at nine o'clock at night, without a drop of water either for man or beast. We were fortunate in having cows along, as they furnished milk for supper. The grass along the road for ten miles after leaving the river, is as good as I have seen on the whole route and there is no difficulty to be encountered here, provided the precaution is taken to water the teams at the river and carry water along for supper and breakfast.

Monday 5th-At daylight the cattle were yoked and a party of five started in advance to look for water. When about four miles on, we discovered a notice, stuck on a stick, by the roadside, stating that it was fourteen miles to water. We were soon relieved from the disagreeable reflections occasioned by this piece of intelligency by meeting with

Mr. Moore. He had been in advance of us 2 miles on horseback and had discovered water. From the top of a hill, two hundred yards from where we stood, we first caught sight of the waters of a clear mountain stream, sparkling up at different points among the willows fringing its banks. Our road crossed the creek at the nearest point and we were not long in reaching the spot. It is hardly necessary to state that we did ample justice to a warm breakfast, served up without delay, on the banks of this delightful mountain stream. Two newly made graves were on the bank of this creek. One I shall note down; that of John Dennis of St. Louis, Mo., who, it was stated on his tomb, had died on the 29th of June, having been left here alone by his company and requesting that his family should be informed of the circumstances. As an act of humanity another company had attended him in his sickness and buried him on this spot. Our course from here was up a mountain for a mile by a very good road. From the top of this mountain looking to the west down a ravine by which the road descends, the scenery is grand and beautiful almost beyond description. A painter traveling to California should not fail to visit this spot. Here he will find a scope for his genius that will repay him for a trip across the plains. Here he will find every variety of coloring within the power of the imagination to conceive. From the dark and blackened mass of rock, torn up and thrown in every variety of shape by volcanic action, to the pure white of snow-covered mountains. From the sombre colored cedar, filling up the ravines and dotting the hill sides

to the luxuriant green carpeting the gentler acclivities. While in every direction, wild flowers and decaying plants that have had their season, will meet his view and give to the whole the many colored tints of the rainbow. To the painter this spot will possess a charm seldom equalled in the world. But to the mere business visitor all interest is merged in the difficulty of the mountain pass; for it is one of the worst wagon roads I have ever seen. For two or three miles down a deep and dark ravine it goes winding its course to a clear mountain stream; sometimes climbing hill-sides to avoid deep ruts worn by a rivulet, having its source mid-way up the mountain; at others descending to the bed of the rivulet, where it is often so obstructed by jutting rocks as to endanger at almost every step the safety of the wagons. At the outlet of this ravine and within view of the creek to the left, is an immense pile of dark volcanic rock, thrown up full three hundred feet in height, in the crevices of which hundreds of ravens and magpies were perched, croaking and chattering at us as we passed. Our wagons all came safely through and we drove to the creek and encamped. Here we had an abundance of grass, wood and water. The distance from the last creek is probably four miles. We traveled in all, ten miles.

Tuesday August 6th-This day we traveled 12. Three miles over a rolling country brought us to the creek again on which encamped again last night. At this place it is wide and deep, having received a number of tributaries in its winding course. Just

below here in a thick grove of willows, the water spreads out for a hundred yards and takes a leap down the rocks forming a cascade, the roaring of which may be heard two miles distant. Here the road leaves the creek. Seven miles further on, we reached a large pond covered with a rank growth of bull-rushes and a tall species of grass. There is a good spring here in the bank of a pond and a deep sluggish creek 20 feet wide, running in a north course on the opposite side. We continued on to the south for two miles to where the creek is full of rushes and encamped. The water of the stream is rather unpalatable, owing to the dead grass and rushes through which it passes. There was a great number of wild ducks and geese found here, but as my health would not permit me to expose myself in wading in mud and water, I did not attempt to hunt them. Mr. Moore started in pursuit of them as soon as we encamped and stayed out to such a late hour that we became alarmed about him. He came in at 9 o'clock at night with a dozen ducks, principally blue winged teal. Mr. Fewer also killed four or five near our caralle and we had an abundance for one good meal. Our only fuel here was wild sage.

Wednesday 7th-Leaving the creek, our ascent was gradual to the top of a mountain 9 miles distant. Descending this ridge half a mile from the summit is an excellent spring, a little to the left of the road. A little below this, where the water leaps down a rock six or eight feet, some traveler before us had amused himself in arranging a small water wheel, which was in active operation as we passed. A mile

further on at the foot of the ridge, is a small creek. We had the misfortune to lose one of our oxen here. It dropped dead in the yoke, 20 yards from the creek. Half a mile from here is another small creek, where we encamped. Both these streams run to the south and no doubt empty into the one we left this morning. We met a small company of traders here from Salt Lake and bound for Fort Hall by a blind trail turning to the right. The Salt Lake road enters the Cut-off road 15 miles ahead. It is 30 miles from this point to Fort Hall and 150 to Salt Lake. There was a great number of dead cattle and horses in this small valley, many of them in the creek and we had to go up the stream half a mile to procure water fit for use. For days-yes, I may say for weeks the road has been strewn with the dead carcasses of these poor animals.

Thursday 8th-After ascending a ridge for 2 miles today, the road was principally descending over a rolling country for 7 miles to a creek. Here we took dinner and were visited by a party of Shoshone Indians. One mile from this and we had an excellent road for six miles, gradually descending to another clear creek, where we encamped. Another party of Indians, 20 in number, met us here, and annoyed us considerably till after dark in begging for food. After our supper was over we gave them a pot of mush, some bacon gravy and a few biscuit, which they ate voraciously and went away apparently very well satisfied with their fare. They had been so impudent in their demands, that we deemed it expedient to make some show of resistance and our guns were all

brought out and loaded in their presence. A double guard was set but we heard no more of them during the night. The Salt Lake road takes down this valley and the Cut-off bears more to the west over a range of mountains.

Friday 9th-Eight miles this morning over a gradually ascending road, six miles of which is so closely hemmed in on either side as to render it almost impossible for a wagon to deviate from the beaten road a rod, brought us to the top of another mountain ridge. This hill though not one of the most dangerous we have passed, is certainly the most tiresome one on cattle I have seen. The road which is very hard, is covered with rock broken into small pieces, rendering the footing insecure, is very steep and about a mile from top to bottom. After this for nine miles the road is excellent. Three miles gradually descending and the rest a perfect level. Three miles from the foot of the hill we passed down a broad, dry valley for 6 miles to a spring on the side of a hill, one mile to the left, the place being indicated by trails starting out at different points from the main road. We encamped at this place. There is no water between this and the creek we left this morning; a distance of eighteen miles. By damming up the rivulet, we procured water enough for our cattle.

Saturday 10th-For eight miles this morning our route was over a rolling country to a creek. There was also two springs of clear, cool water here. Immediately after leaving the creek, we commenced ascending a high ridge

of the mountains, which continued for four miles, when we struck into a pass where the road was nearly level for 5 miles. Two miles in this pass we found a cool spring, up a ravine a little to the left of the road. We stopped for supper five miles within the pass; and as we had been unsuccessful in finding grazing for the cattle, we determined to travel for a few hours in the night in hopes that we would soon come to a creek. With this understanding, Mr. Sweasy, Pritchard and myself started in advance to choose a favorable place for an encampment. We traveled six miles and seeing no termination to the pass, concluded to wait till the wagons came up. Having remained here for half an hour and hearing no sound of their approach, we retraced our steps for 4 miles and found our friends all asleep and the cattle tied up. On account of the darkness of the night they had advanced only two miles after we left them.

Sunday 11th We continued on down the pass for five miles this morning, where we found a scant supply of grass and halted for breakfast on a rivulet heading a little above us in the mountains. At 12 o'clock we were again on the road and after traveling 3 miles down the rivulet, which we crossed several times, we arrived at the mouth of the pass. The distance through I have set down at fifteen miles. In this distance there are several good springs. There is also some grass and the first emigrants would experience no difficulty in this respect. The greatest objection to traveling a place like this is perhaps the dust. This although seldom spoken of, has been a perpetual source of annoyance for the

last 500 miles. The soil is of a light volcanic character, and the least breeze or the tramping of the cattle, is sufficient to raise it in such clouds as to envelope a whole train to such an extent as to render it difficult to distinguish the wagons at a few yards distant. Sometimes too, a whirlwind will come sweeping up a ravine, carrying the dust spirally mountain high and almost smothering teams and teamsters in its passage. In this pass may be seen again, some of those beautiful mountain views I have remarked in other places. As I was considerably ahead of the train and out of the dust, I had a fair opportunity of observing them. From the mouth of the pass we traveled 12 miles to a creek, the head waters of Raft River and encamped. During the afternoon we had a refreshing shower. The road for the last 30 miles with the exception of two or three crossings of small creeks has been equal to a turnpike.

Monday 12th-We did not move today, till 12 o'clock and traveled only six miles to another branch of Raft river, where we encamped. Here ends Myers' Cut-off; the Fort Hall road coming in on the west side of the creek. The distance through I have stated at 125 miles. The distance by Fort Hall is said to be 145 miles; so that there is only 20 miles saved in taking the cut-off. I would advise emigrants in making choice of the two routes to choose, if possible, the one least traveled. The Cut-off is undoubtedly the shortest but the Fort Hall route has the preference as a wagon road. Grass is abundant and water may be procured at conven-

ient distances on either route.

Tuesday 13 We traveled 13 miles today. For six miles the road follows up the course of the creek, where it crosses and bears off due south to avoid a spur of the mountain. Beyond this, within seven miles, are two very good springs, to the right of the road: the first near a mile off, the latter at which we encamped a quarter of a mile.

Wednesday 14th-We started early this morning and traveling 8 miles, in which we crossed several small creeks, we arrived at the base of a lofty mountain, covered with pine and cedar, where the road takes a west course through a deep gorge, called Pyramid Valley, displaying to the traveler scenery of the most wild and majestic character. Three miles within the gorge, an immense granite boulder resembling in the distance some old dilapidated castle and on which hundreds of names are inscribed, rises up full a hundred feet in height, in the shade of which we halted for our mid-day meal. A clear mountain rivulet was coursing its way down a ravine a few yards distant. Leaving this place we traveled eleven miles to a spring on the side of a mountain, where we encamped having traveled 22 miles. During the afternoon we had a heavy shower of rain.

Thursday 16th-It was nine o'clock this morning before we were on the road again. Notwithstanding our late start, however, we made eighteen miles. Twelve miles brought us to a place where the road and a branch of the river passes through a canon in

the mountain for 4 miles. This pass at many points is so compressed that there is barely room for a road and so encumbered with fragments of rock, which has rolled down the mountain, as to render it difficult for a wagon to pass. The height of the mountain from the bed of the creek, is probably 300 feet. On the left in many places, the walls of the canon are perpendicular, while on the right they are more sloping and all composed of a dark basaltic rock. We encamped two miles beyond the canon and a mile to the right of the main road.

Saturday 17th—A distressing accident occurred on the road this afternoon. Richard Sweasy, a boy ten years old, fell from a wagon and one of the wheels passed over his head. At first it was thought he was killed but he revived in a few seconds and his wound having been examined and dressed, hopes are entertained that he will survive. A frightful gash was cut the whole length of his cheek and his ear nearly severed in the middle. After traveling eleven miles this morning, we arrived at the Valley of The Thousand Springs. At the entrance of the valley the water bursts from under a high rock in a number of springs, forming a considerable stream. A notice was posted up here warning emigrants to be prepared for the Indians, who were committing depredations along the road. The party who had posted the notice had lost 12 or 14 head of cattle and horses at this spring. Our arms were immediately got in readiness and at night a strong guard placed over the cattle. That part of the road passed over in the morning was hilly, barren and deso-

late; the only production of the soil being wild sage with an occasional stunted cedar. The whole country around had a dark and dismal appearance. We traveled 13 miles down the valley of the Thousand Springs during the afternoon; making in all 24 miles. We encamped in a valley with a tolerable supply of grass but no water. We had barely a sufficient supply of water for tea in our casks, with a prospect of no coffee for breakfast. Some twenty wagons, besides a number of packers were encamped in the space of half a mile, in this valley, so we had nothing to fear from an attack by the Indians. In the evening, a gentleman paid us a visit from a neighboring wagon. He informed us that his party had procured water by digging and invited us to come over and partake of it; an invitation which we readily accepted.

Sunday 18th—Our road this morning was up the valley in which we had encamped. Ten miles brought us to a large spring, on the side of a marsh, where we encamped, at 12 o'clock to feed and rest our cattle. Several trains were stopping here and gave us alarming accounts of the Indians. One company had just left with an ox that had been shot and badly wounded. Three arrows were found sticking in his side and a bullet hole through his nose. The offense was committed in broad daylight, but the perpetrators were not seen. Six Indians were seen lurking in the wild sage, near our encampment during the afternoon by some packers who stopped near us. A small company of emigrants came in late in the evening and encamped near us. While in conversation with us

they mentioned having found the body of a drowned man on the North Platte, on the 13th ult. From the description given of his personal appearance, dress, etc., there is no doubt that it was the body of Wm. Faulkner. He was discovered floating down the river three miles below where he was drowned and having drifted on the beach, was taken from the water and buried by them.

Monday August 19th-A vigilant guard had been placed over the cattle, but nothing transpired last night, denoting the presence of Indians in our vicinity. I was on watch from 10 till 1 o'clock. It was a clear moonlight night; the cattle had eaten their fill and were reposing in the valley, in the space of 2 acres; and no sound was heard to break the perfect stillness of the night save the low tinkling of the cow-bells or the occasional mournful howling of some hungry wolf. We started our teams at the usual time in the morning and traveled eight miles up the valley to the boiling springs, where we took dinner. There are a great number of these springs, forming quite a large creek and so hot that the hand cannot be held in them a second. Ten miles from this we arrived at the head of the valley, where there is a large spring of excellent water, forming a creek which we had been following up for 3 or 4 miles. Here we expected to find grass, but were disappointed and continued on over the dividing ridge to Canon Creek, ten miles further, where we encamped at 10 o'clock at night, with a good supply of feed and water, having traveled 28 miles. Canon Creek is a tributary of Humboldt riv-

er. The soil here is very rich and the whole valley is covered with a luxuriant growth of grass and wild rye. The night was cold; a tin cup filled with water froze solid to the bottom.

Tuesday 20th-Two miles down the creek brought us to another canon and one of the toughest and most trying places on wagons I have seen. The canon is five miles through; the road crossing the creek nine times. Three miles within the canon are a number of boiling springs bursting from the base of the mountain immediately into the creek, rendering the water unfit for use for several miles below. We were put to some inconvenience in this respect at dinner time by not taking water above. We encamped on the creek, five miles below the canon, having made 12 miles. We have seen no Indians yet, although we have daily reports of their depredations along the road.

Wednesday 21st -At three o'clock p. m. we reached the first crossing of Humboldt river, after traveling 15 miles. It is not over twenty feet wide here and quite shallow. While at dinner, four pack horses took a stampede two miles above us and came down the road at full speed, with camp kettles, coffee pots and frying pans flying and making a noise similar to a well got up cheravarie. They broke in among our cattle just as we were herding them for a start, knocking three of them down in their mad career and horses and cattle falling in a heap. This brought them to a sudden halt, till we secured them for their owners, who soon arrived in pursuit

of them. Fortunately no damage was done. We encamped on the river five miles below the crossing.

Thursday 22nd-Indian signals were heard during the night; and as we proceeded on our journey this morning, we met a party of 12 on horseback, three miles below. They made great professions of friendship, but we doubted their sincerity and kept them at a distance. Mr. Fewer had followed down the stream on a hunting excursion; he was intercepted by this same band and had some difficulty in getting rid of them; one laying hold of his powder horn with a determination to take possession of it. They desisted only, when he gave them to understand that he would defend himself. When we stopped to dinner three more visited our wagons. They had been fishing; were entirely unarmed and behaved very mildly. We purchased some very fine trout from them; gave them a share of our dinner, presented them with fish-hooks and they left us highly delighted with their fare: giving us to understand as they parted company, that they were "Diggers." One of them asked for tobacco and being presented with a good sized piece, to our astonishment, he swallowed it all down in a few seconds as if it had been so much bread. Traveled fifteen miles and encamped on the river.

Friday 23rd-A mile from our encampment we crossed another fork of the river, coming in from the northwest. Here the road passes over a succession of high ridges, sometimes touching the river in its windings a-

mong the bluffs for four or five miles. The whole valley along here for a distance of 16 or 18 miles, is quite narrow affording but a scant supply of grass. We traveled twenty miles and encamped on the river at a boiling spring. It throws out a volume of water of near a foot in diameter and is sufficiently hot to cook meat. It is situated in the bed of the river and forms a pleasant bath, as you can procure water at any temperature. Several Indians were encamped near us on the opposite side of the river. One of our party having crossed over on horseback in search of grass, they became alarmed and scampered off. They were pacified, however, when they discovered the object of his visit and one of them ventured up to our wagons and begged for something to eat.

Saturday 24th-Mr. Dexter's train came up with us this morning and passed us after we had been on the road about 3 hours. Between 3 and 4 o'clock p. m. we came to a crossing and another of those remarkable places where the river breaks through the mountains. The canon is about five miles through and the road crosses the river four times. At a short distance beyond the third crossing, the road passes down the bed of the river for fifty yards; but there is no difficulty for the stream is quite shallow, with a hard gravel bottom. We encamped with a good supply of grass, two miles from the foot of the canon. A good camp may be had at the foot of the canon by fording the river. Mr. Dexter encamped here. We drove till after sundown and it was quite dark before we had selected a

suitable place to stop. Traveled 22 miles.

Sunday August 25th—Since we struck the Humboldt valley the nights have been cold and frosty. Last night, however, was warm and sultry with indications of rain. After traveling five miles, this morning, we arrived at a place where the road passes over a chain of high barren bluffs for 17 miles. Water may be procured from several small springs near the road. We commenced ascending the bluffs at 9 o'clock, A. M., and drove till after dark: making a day's travel of about 25 miles. During the afternoon we had a slight shower. We fell in with some packers today, who came through by the Salt Lake route. They had passed over a ninty mile desert, and gave some distressing accounts of suffering on this road. A number who had neglected to inform themselves with regard to the route had started on the desert without water, and had given up to die, but were assisted and brought through by other trains. They related instances where men had offered ten dollars for a drink of water, and could not procure it at that price. Others, who had got through safe, returned and sold water at a dollar a quart. The Indians, too, have been troublesome on this route. An Ohio company had a battle with them and killed seven: losing a man or two themselves. An old man and his son, a lad 12 or 14 years old, had been murdered. The boy had been scalped and the flesh stripped from his body. A number of emigrants, principally packers, are now on the road with scant supplies of provisions. We have had daily applications for flour,

bacon, etc., and in fact they have been so pressing in their demands, that we deem it necessary to keep a strict guard over our wagons at night. Two men were observed near our caralle, at 2 o'clock last night. Our dogs gave the alarm and as it was a bright moonlight night, they were seen sculking off among the sage bushes.

Monday 26th—Our cattle were on short grass last night: we consequently started early and drove two miles further down the river before breakfast. Mr. Dexter and company, who had stopped four miles back, passed us again on the opposite side of the river at 10 o'clock. Started again at 12 o'clock and having drove eight miles, encamped: making in all ten miles.

Tuesday 27th—A portion of our road this morning was over a spur of the mountain, to where we crossed the river again to the right hand side. Late in the evening we passed a party of Indians, two or three hundred in number, bathing in the river. We encamped a mile below them. The guard was set early and due preparation made in case of an attack. The selection of our camp ground was an injudicious one. We were enclosed on three sides by a dense growth of willows, while to the north, where our cattle were left to graze, the wild rye grew in such luxuriance as to completely hide them from our view, one hundred yards distant. It was too late, however, to mend the matter, and we had to make the best of it. Having learned that Mr. Pullyblank's train was 15 miles behind us, Mr. Moore

and Jackson stopped back to see some of our old acquaintances. As they had not arrived at a late hour this evening, we were apprehensive that they had taken down a road on the opposite side of the river branching off the last crossing. Traveled 20 miles.

Wednesday 28th—Once during the night we were awakened by the yells of the Indians, but as they did not approach us, we settled down quietly to rest again. A greater portion of the route yesterday, and for three miles this morning, was over salaratus ground. After this the road turns to the right, close around a rocky point of the mountain, and for ten miles passes over a barren country, covered with light ashes, which rises in clouds, at the slightest touch, till it strikes the river again. At this point the valley opens out into an extensive plain, covered with thousands of acres of luxuriant grass. We traveled 7 miles further down the river and encamped, having made 20 miles. A company of packers encamped near us, and made a demand for provisions. On being told our own supplies were short, they said they knew better, that they were "entirely out, and by God they must have some!" The matter was arranged by selling them a young heifer, which they were not long in butchering.

Thursday 29th—We fell in with Mr. Dexter's party again this morning, about four miles on the road and drove in company the greater part of the day. We traveled 22 miles today. Six miles of the road in the morning, leaving

the river and passing over a barren sage country. Mr. Moore and Mr. Jackson came up with us again late this evening. As we suspected they had taken the left hand road and passed us on the opposite side of the river. They were thirty-six hours without food and in the words of Mr. Moore "caralled in the grass."

Friday 30th—We still hear of depredations by the Indians, but as yet have experienced no difficulty with them. Mr. Dexter, who encamped three miles ahead of us last night, lost a very fine horse. Near his camp on the road a notice was posted up, warning emigrants of danger at this place and recommending them to collect in large bodies for mutual protection. It was stated that several persons had been shot near this and a great number of cattle and horses stolen. After traveling down the river for nine miles by a very heavy sandy road to the river again where we had considerable difficulty with our cattle miring down in attempting to drink from the stream. We had to drag out several with ropes. There was no wood here, but we had provided a supply on the road for night and morning. Whole day's travel 32 miles.

Saturday 31st—This day we traveled 18 miles. During the greater part of the forenoon our route was along the foot of a barren sage ridge, bordered by a wide spread marsh formed by the river. Near the foot of this marsh the road forks; the right hand trail bearing off in a north west course round an arm of the marsh, while the left follows the course of the river. The distance by the right hand trail

to the junction of the two roads again is about five miles; that to the left is only about two. We took to the right to avoid the crossing of a bad slough, and a side-hill road at the base of the mountain on the opposite side of the marsh. An Indian was shot here a few days since, and left unburied. An Ohio company had thrown some earth over him and stated, by an inscription at his grave that he who had done this deed, and thus left the body exposed was worse than the untutored savage whom he had killed. We encamped on the river, five miles below this

Sunday Sept. 1st-We traveled only 15 miles today over a barren sandy ridge, running with the course of the river. We encamped with a scant supply of grass. Mr. Jackson stopped back this morning to wait for Mr. Pullyblank's train to come up. He intends to pack through from here and will be joined by five or six others from Mr. Pullyblank's company. There is a considerable amount of suffering on the road for want of provisions and we have daily demands made upon our stores for relief. In most cases we have given a little but our own supplies are running short and hereafter we have determined to extend relief only in extreme cases of suffering. We came across a poor fellow today, driving a bull before him, packing his blanket, clothing, cooking utensils, etc. He was one of a small train of three or four wagons who had been unfortunate in losing cattle till they were compelled to resort to packing and had all finally become separated. He had gained his subsistence along the Humboldt by fishing. His plan was to stop a day or

two occasionally in a good place and smoke his fish, which he bartered with the emigrants for breadstuffs, sugar, coffee, etc.

Monday 2nd-During the whole of today the road was heavy and sandy and our progress consequently very slow. We encamped on the river early in the evening in order to butcher a beef. Traveled 12 miles.

Tuesday 3rd-Soon after leaving our encampment, we struck off from the river on a high barren ridge covered with ashes. The only production of the soil here is a stunted growth of artemesia and plants of this description. Our road continued over this barren plain for ten miles, when it again struck the river. Our journey today was disagreeable enough on account of the clouds of dust that were continually rising from the tramping of the cattle. We traveled 15 miles; the latter portion of the road being partly in the valley, till we finally emerged into a wide valley of the river covered with very good grass, where we encamped. Here we deemed it expedient to remain for a day and cut a supply of grass for the desert

Wednesday 4th-Early this morning each man had his duty assigned him for the day. The best grass was found on the opposite side of the river. Two men were accordingly sent back five miles by the road to bring down a wagon bed which we had observed tied to some willows yesterday, which had been converted into a boat. Mr. Moore was to be hunter and I, through choice, remained in camp to procure wood for baking and to fish. The dis-

tance the boat had to be brought by the course of the stream, proved to be about twenty miles and it did not arrive till near one o'clock. Mr. Moore came in soon after with 15 ducks and I had in the meantime caught sixteen fish, averaging half a pound apiece. The hay was baled up and brought over in the evening. Here we were beset again by a swarm of hungry emigrants asking for provisions. Our own safety, however, compels us in most cases to turn a deaf ear to their entreaties for breadstuffs. During the day we disposed of 75 pounds of beef to those most in need of relief.

Thursday 5th—Passing down the valley of the river for ten miles this morning, we halted for dinner. Three young men, packing on foot, overtook us here, entirely out of provisions. One of them was a mere boy and begged hard for a passage through by our train, but our limited supplies forbids the risk of increasing our numbers. Mr. Moore had taken up a stray ox yesterday, which he shot down and presented to them, with the understanding that they were to share it with any others that might pass during the day. We left here at three o'clock and after traveling over a ridge for eight miles turned to the river again a mile distant and encamped on very short grass.

Friday 6th—We still continued down the ridge by a heavy road, for eighteen miles and encamped on a high bluff of the river, without grass and had to procure water by descending 150 feet by a steep and winding path. Our fuel was a stunted growth of artemesia

and it was with considerable labor that we obtained a sufficient supply.

Saturday 7th—Three miles down the river this morning we stopped to graze our cattle. Here we were doomed to a day of tiresome inactivity. Three hours were sufficient to graze our teams but our leaders deemed it necessary to throw away the entire day and for the sake of peace, the company submitted to the arrangement. I endeavored to pass off the time in fishing but in this I was unsuccessful and finally retired to my wagon to sleep.

Sunday 8th—For several miles this morning we passed over a singular strip of country, covered with turf, from six inches to two feet deep and which appears to have been once the bottom of a large lake. A great part of it had been burned and some portions of it was still burning. While the wagons were passing by a circuitous route a number of us undertook to make a nearcut over a place that had been recently burned, but were forced to return to the road again on account of the depth of ashes and cinders, into which we sometimes sunk above our knees and finding it quite hot we became fearful of tumbling into some burning pit and had to retreat. Twelve miles from the place of starting we stopped to take in water for the desert, from a small spring under a high bank of a slough to the left of the road. The water was strongly impregnated with sulphur. Four miles below here, by the course of the river but ten miles by the road, we encamped at the Big Meadow, to cut grass. It was quite dark when we arrived here amid the glare of fifty campfires, blaz-

ing up from as many wagons, all on the same errand as ourselves. This day was passed in cutting and curing grass, baking bread and otherwise preparing for the desert, now 23 miles distant.

Tuesday 10th-We traveled 18 miles today and encamped on a shallow lake around the border of which our road had been winding for half the day. While passing through some tall, rank grass this morning we came upon an encampment of four hundred Indians. They were occupied in making hay which they traded to the emigrants. They appeared friendly, but we collected our train together and kept near our wagons to be ready for any emergency that might happen.

Wednesday 11th-We reached the link of Humboldt river, six miles, at 12 and entered the long looked for and much dreaded desert. Our first impressions with regard to its passage were anything but agreeable, for in the first 5 miles, the distance traveled by day light we counted the dead carcasses of 64 oxen and 55 horses and mules. During the night we could not keep any account of the loss of stock, but we know the average was greatly increased as we neared Carson river, the Desert on the south. The destruction of property here is immense. For forty miles the road is strewn with abandoned wagons and sometimes the whole of their contents except provisions. Whole caravans, numbering five or six wagons, were found deserted and the place literally covered with dead cattle; many of them still tied to the wheels of the wagons. The whole air throughout the desert was tainted

with the smell of carrion. The night was unusually cold and we passed several encampments where persons were burning wagons to warm themselves. At 4 o'clock a. m. we came to a halt by two or three old wagons which we used as fuel for cooking. During our journey in the night we had left two cows and an ox on the desert, unable to travel any further. At 9 o'clock one entire team gave out and we were compelled to leave a wagon within six miles of the river and drive the cattle on to water. Mr. Moore was left in charge of the wagon with a supply of provisions and water until we could recruit the teams and return for it. It was brought in at 11 o'clock allright.

Thursday 12th-We reached Carson river at 11 o'clock a. m. and encamped. There are a number of temporary recruiting establishments here, with an abundance of provisions but the articles most in demand are generally held at such extravagant prices. The goods offered for sale here are transported from Sacramento on pack mules. The distance across the desert from the Link is 45 miles; two-thirds of which has to be traveled over a very heavy sandy road.

Friday 13th-Traveled six miles of the way on a heavy sandy road and finding our teams were very much exhausted we turned them out to graze and did not move any further today.

Saturday 14-Passed over another twelve mile desert today and were compelled to leave a wagon with a man in charge five miles back from our encampment. We traveled 16 miles in

all and encamped on the river again with very scant feed for the cattle. Half way on our journey today we met a mule team in charge of two Mexicans transporting flour out to the emigrants. A train also passed us, returning to Sacramento. The prospect for getting through before snow sets in on the mountains, begins to look rather gloomy. Our teams are very much reduced and if they do not recruit soon we will be driven to the alternate of trading away some of our wagons and everything else that can possibly be dispensed with, in order to get through.

Sunday 15th-We drove only five miles today and encamped on the river with a good supply of grass. Mr. Sweasy contemplates stopping here for three days. These unreasonable delays have caused considerable murmuring in the company and will doubtless be the means of many leaving the train. Mr. Pritchard is already preparing to pack through on foot and I have no doubt many others will soon follow his example. We are now 250 miles from Sacramento.

On the 18th Mr. Sweasy, much against the will of the company having declared his intention of remaining three or four days longer, Messrs. Mills, Lyon and myself, parted with him having bargained with a speculator in cattle to drive his baggage wagon through for our boarding. Owing to the increased duties of guarding a hundred head of cattle, being only eleven men in company, I was forced to discontinue my notes. The remainder of my Journal is made up from

recollection at a later period.

For three days we found the country a succession of short deserts of four to fifteen miles in extent, the road crossing the river at two points until we reached Carson Valley. The valley is about twenty miles long and ten miles wide and certainly one of the most delightful spots on the face of the earth. On the north it is bounded by a high range of mountains, being the first of the Sierra Nevada, covered with pine trees of an immense size. Carson river passes through the center; while to the south barren and rugged mountain peaks rise up in the distance. The road passes close along the base of the mountain on the north and is intersected at short intervals by clear and cool rivulets, winding their course to the river, through luxuriant meadows; which notwithstanding the immense emigration, still continues to yield an undiminished supply of grass. Leaving Carson Valley the road for six or eight miles, passes over a range of high and barren bluffs and enters Carson River Canon. I shall not attempt a description of this mountain pass but simply remark, that for the passage of wagons, this is as difficult, perhaps, as the imagination can conceive. The distance through is five miles; in which the river has to be crossed a number of times on rude bridges, constructed by the first emigrants and the wagons were constantly endangered by jumping from perpendicular edges and jutting rocks. In one respect this is altogether unlike any other part of the route, for two thousand miles. On entering the canon the difficulty of the passage

is almost forgotten in the agreeable sensation produced by the shade of a dense pine forest. We encamped in a small valley at the head of the canon. The night was cold and frosty the grazing scant, our cattle wandered considerably and the task of following them over marshy ground with wet feet was disagreeable in the extreme. We broke up our encampment at an early hour and after passing nearly south between two high ranges of mountains, over gently undulating ground during the greater part of the day we encamped near the base of the second range. Here we held ourselves ready all night and at daylight were somewhat surprised to find the mountains white with snow. Our fears in this respect, however, were removed by the snow melting off again in the course of the forenoon, when we commenced the ascent of the second range. There is no difficulty here that may not be overcome with fresh and strong teams. We accomplished the task in about three hours and after driving half a day, again descended to a small lake at the foot of the third and last range, at all ordinary times the margin of this lake affords good grazing. but we were compelled to drive over another hill and through a narrow pass into another narrow valley. We were late and night overtook us in the middle of the pass. The cattle wandered into ravines branching off into another valley and after an unsuccessful attempt to herd them, we finally had to dismount and lead our mules over broken rocks between high precipice. We were compelled at length to encamp and take our chance where we

were.

With a fresh team, selected from our herd of cattle, on the morning succeeding our night adventure in the mountain pass, we commenced the ascent of the third and last range. This was our worst day, dead horses and cattle strewn the road from end to end. It is sufficient indications of the terrible hardships to be encountered by those less fortunate than ourselves. Two of our best horses died during our encampment, before reaching the summit. We were also for a time in the region of eternal snow.

Five of our best mules were lost on the night following our departure from the summit. Having information through a prospecting party that we were in the neighborhood of Indians numbering about six hundred, suspected the mules had been stolen. Arrangements were accordingly made to hunt them. Eight men, well armed, were despatched to the pasture for that purpose. The remaining three, among whom was myself, were detailed in charge of the baggage wagon; we had little to fear the Indians being unarmed, with no signs of hostility and our display of force was considered amply sufficient to resist an attack if necessary. We were saved from further detention by finding the mules about a mile distant where they had strayed during the night.

During the remainder of our journey nothing occurred worth recording after this long period of camp life. We reached the gold mines without further adventure the first day of October, six months from the time of leaving home.

The End.

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